

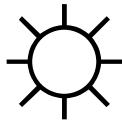
Fragrant tidings of Spirituality
Philosophy Romance

Disifans
Eve

Richard Mc Sweeney

Eugen Grünfeld

Visitant Eve



- Fragrant tidings -

~:~

Richard Mc Sweeney

VISITANT EVE

Copyright © Richard Mc Sweeney 2013

ISBN: 978-1-304-90442-3

Publisher: Lulu.com on behalf of Richard Mc Sweeney

All Rights Reserved

No part of this book may be reproduced in any form,
by photocopying or by any electronic or mechanical means,
including information storage or retrieval systems,
without permission in writing from the copyright owner.

Cover art: *Bedouins in the Desert* by Eugene Alexis Girardet (1853-1907)
Courtesy of <http://www.artmight.com>

Book formatted & designed by Richard Mc Sweeney
Website: <http://www.rivers2c.com>
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/sagelyriard>
Contact: rich.etidings@gmail.com



Your Majesty in that day way in the future what signs will there be for the peoples that something extraordinary is taking place right before their very eyes?

There will suddenly appear unto them from the desert a descendant of our royal lineage who with great serenity, confidence, and joyfulness of heart, and eloquence in word will be with revealing to them that which they had long forgotten due to their interlaying of distractions, and accumulation of unresponsiveness, namely, that Imagination is their sole originator, sole sustainer, and sole comforter and joy.

Source: {Bridging Al-Serenities}

Your Majesty would it be appropriate for me to refer to Imagination as 'the Almighty' rather than 'Imagination'?

Yes, it would be appropriate, but only if you understand and appreciate the action; the marvellous imagining of Imagination. Almighty is the imagining of Imagination. That word in itself; a word composed of six words making a seventh: 'Almighty is the imagining of Imagination.' is the most desirable way for referring to the action; to the imagining of Imagination. The name 'Imagination' is the word upon our lips, and in our writings, but in our heart we know Imagination without any such word; any such name.

Source: Ibidem

Also by this author:

A Green Desert Father

Bridging Al-Serenities

Unto Lineage Royal

Innkeeper's Fire

Hearing in the Write

Generations Reaching

A Jesus of Nazareth

Myriam of Lebanon

Established self-originating author, Richard Mc Sweeney is a native of Éire (Ireland). He is happily married, and has a son and daughter.

The closing two decades of the last century saw him teaching and studying in the Far East and the Middle East respectively. He has a Masters in Chinese Philosophy which he gained through the mediums of Korean and Classical Chinese. Before going overseas he spent six years as a Catholic seminarian. Since the turn of the century, he has been living on his native isle. During this time he has written eight books; the present being his ninth.

While this lyrical philosopher may be said on one level to be writing for his own time, his main focus however is on creating a worthy cache of philosophical literature for future generations. His position being, that whether or not a body of work had been published by a traditional publishing house or by the author won't really be a very important consideration in two, to three, to five hundred years. What will be of greatest relevance and significance will be that it has somehow wondrously managed to reach to their time, and that through it they will be able to get a glimpse of how one particular author viewed himself, life, and the universe from the platform of his own day, namely that of the early 21st century.

In his view, it is all about being generously mindful of those coming after; of leaving a quality record for those thirsty seekers of knowledge, wisdom, and inspiration of future ages who will treasure, delight, and appreciate that we of the yonder yore were thinking of them, and wanted to communicate with them.

Visitant Eve all saffron hued in a delightful Taoist sunshine is a uniquely innovative work; a work of spirituality, philosophy, and romance having distinct Jewish, Christian, and Islamic associations. And save for the dream 'Right to live' which was written in June 2013, the work dates from December 2009 to August 2010. The charming interwoven love story is an adaptation of Scottish poet Andrew Lang's beautiful 1887 translation of the 12th century French work, *Aucassin et Nicolette*. Many of his lovely arcane words and phrases have been retained both for their meaning and lyrical effect.

Table of Contents

<i>With real authority</i>	3
<i>Staying in a certain house</i>	5
<i>Two young lovers</i>	7
<i>Waiting patiently</i>	9
<i>In all things good</i>	11
<i>Person made free</i>	13
<i>Strolling in wide open spaces</i>	15
<i>Goodly castle</i>	17
<i>Great catch of fish</i>	19
<i>In an upper chamber</i>	21
<i>With rounding a bend</i>	23
<i>Stood in thought</i>	25
<i>Marvellous things</i>	27
<i>Love in all the world</i>	29
<i>Night in a lonely place</i>	31
<i>Love so bright</i>	33
<i>Love of goodness</i>	35
<i>Fair covenant</i>	37
<i>Truly joyful</i>	39
<i>Wondrous brave</i>	41
<i>Ferryboat</i>	43
<i>Sermon me no sermons</i>	45
<i>Located beyond the boundary</i>	49
<i>Dun-walled marble cell</i>	51
<i>Anxious about destinations</i>	53
<i>Night still and serene</i>	55
<i>Of so little faith</i>	57

<i>Bright of brow</i>	59
<i>Rich in the sight</i>	61
<i>Love thee more</i>	63
<i>Feelings</i>	65
<i>Valiant</i>	67
<i>Nonpareil love</i>	69
<i>One stepping place</i>	71
<i>On a fragrant promontory</i>	73
<i>Nothing know</i>	75
<i>Simplicity of life</i>	77
<i>By a fair fountain</i>	79
<i>Reclining at table</i>	81
<i>Ancient way</i>	83
<i>Knower of the hidden</i>	85
<i>Good counsel</i>	87
<i>Enjoying the sunlight</i>	89
<i>Gathered shepherds</i>	91
<i>Children happily playing</i>	93
<i>Again that anon ye sang</i>	95
<i>Love and compassion</i>	97
<i>Through paths</i>	99
<i>Joyfully telling</i>	101
<i>Looking along the way</i>	103
<i>Sowing of seeds</i>	107
<i>Evening star</i>	109
<i>Knowledge tree</i>	111
<i>Not far away</i>	113
<i>Right to live</i>	115
<i>Gentle waterfall</i>	117

<i>To what land</i>	119
<i>Truths of the heart</i>	121
<i>Along the seashore</i>	123
<i>Blue skied archway</i>	125
<i>Courteous</i>	129
<i>Beauty and goodness</i>	131
<i>Henceforth for ever</i>	133
<i>Being the word</i>	135
<i>Laugh and smile</i>	137
<i>Older carrying the younger</i>	139
<i>High of lineage</i>	141
<i>Triple wonder</i>	143
<i>Love doth me embrace</i>	145
<i>As a blessing</i>	147
<i>Rose there a mighty wind</i>	149
<i>Since the break of day</i>	151
<i>In joy and ease</i>	153
<i>Makes the seed grow</i>	155
<i>High parentry</i>	157
<i>For the very first time</i>	159
<i>Good and true</i>	161
<i>Loving masterpiece</i>	163
<i>Fair sweet love</i>	165
<i>Moral landscape</i>	167
<i>Way of thinking</i>	169
<i>Fragrant breeze</i>	171
<i>Looking with peace</i>	173
<i>Sweet influence</i>	175
<i>Noble ways</i>	177

<i>Sorrow no more</i>	179
<i>Wonderfully comfortable</i>	181
<i>Sky of many hues</i>	183
<i>Fragrant marketplace</i>	187
<i>Gladness and delight</i>	189
<i>Pleasure and contentment</i>	191
<i>Shimmering stream</i>	197

Suddenly of a predawn a woman came forth
from the Great Desert.



With real authority

One day, Eve went into a village. It was of a Friday, and she went into the mosque and began to speak. The people were amazed at her wording, for she spoke with real authority; quite unlike the teachers of Sharia Law or in truth of any religious Laws.

Suddenly, the imam of the mosque became possessed with a furious troublesome and it began shouting at Eve. "Why are you interfering with me, Eve of the Desert? Have you come to destroy me?"

Eve cut it short. "Be quiet! Come out of the man," she ordered. At that, the angry troublesome screamed, threw the imam into a convulsion, and then came out of him.

Amazement gripped the audience, and they began to discuss what had happened. "What sort of fresh wording is this," they asked excitedly. "It has such authority! Even troublesomes obey her orders!"

After Eve left the mosque, she went by request to someone's house. Now, the man of the house's mother-in-law was very sick in bed with a high fever. Eve went to her bedside, took her by the hand, and helped her sit up. Then the fever left her, and she with great joy helped prepare a meal for all in the house.

That evening after sunset, many sick and trouble-possessed people were brought to Eve. The whole village gathered at the door to watch. So Eve healed many people who were sick with various diseases, and she cast out many troublesomes.

Before daybreak the next morning, Eve got up and went out to a hillside to pray. Later others went out to find her. When they found her, they said, "Everyone is looking for you." But Eve replied, "I must go on to other countrysides, villages, towns, and cities as well, and I will speak to them too, and wherever I happen to sojourn along the way. That is why I came in from the desert." So she travelled throughout that region, speaking in the mosques, synagogues, and churches, and healing various diseases, and casting out troublesomes.

And, as Eve was sitting there on the hillside, a man with unfaithfulness came and dropped himself to the ground in front of her, and he begging to be healed. "If you are willing, you can heal me and make me clean," he said. Moved with compassion, Eve reached out and touched his bosom. "I am willing," she said. "Be healed!"

Instantly, the unfaithfulness disappeared from his heart; the man was healed, and he returned to his wife full of joy. And she with seeing in his eyes that he had been completely healed of his unfaithfulness returned him with great love and gratitude to her ever-faithful embrace.

Staying in a certain house

Whenever people heard that Eve was staying in a certain house, they hurried to listen to her words, for her words carried not alone in them meaning but also a power to bring about a qualitative change in how they viewed themselves, life, and the systems of belief they had been cultured to accept.

Soon the house was so packed with visitors that there was no more room, even outside the door or in the yard.

And while she was saying to them who were there ... "How long, how long you simpletons will you insist on being simpleminded? How long will you mockers relish your mocking? How long will you fools block your ears and your eyes to true knowledge?" ... two teenagers: a brother and his sister arrived carrying a paralysed parent on a makeshift stretcher. They couldn't bring their mother to Eve because of the crowd, so with the help of those around they created an opening in the roof above Eve's head. Then, they very carefully lowered their mother on her stretcher, right down in front of Eve. Seeing the brother and sister's great faith, Eve stooped down and held the pale, frail, twisted out of shape right hand of their mother, and with looking into her beautiful eyes, she commanded to the paralysis, saying, "Leave!"

Now, some teachers of Sharia Law who were sitting there in the shadows thought to themselves, "What's she saying? Who does she think she is? This is absolute blasphemy! Only the Almighty can heal a person! And besides only a m..."

Repeating these and other words along the same line of thinking were they with grumbling away to themselves, even to the point of breaking out in anger. However, just before reaching that point, Eve knowing what they were thinking, asked them there who were lurking in the shadows, "Why do you question this in your hearts? Which is it wiser to do, to speak to the problem or not to speak to it? What would you have me command instead? 'Woman leave from out of the paralysis!' Is that what you would have me say?"

Eve with not receiving any reply from them turned to the woman in the stretcher, and softly and lovingly said to her, "For too long, dear you have been tied down; weighed down by that paralysis. Be now with standing to your feet, and let your body be with giving itself vitality." And the woman stood to her feet.

And at seeing their mother once again completely free, the loving son and daughter with joyful tears cascading did embrace, and embrace; did kiss and kiss their mother. And with much gratitude to the Almighty, and to Eve, they hurriedly left to joyfully seek out her husband, who was since the break of day diligently and tearfully working away in stony fields.

All who remained there in the house, including those who had been hiding themselves in the shadows, were amazed at what they had witnessed, and they all with pouring out into the neighbourhood were with singing and dancing gratitude to the Almighty, and exclaiming, “Oh, we have never seen or heard anything like this before!”

Two young lovers

As Eve strolled from place to place, she delighted in sing-telling many different love stories to the winged of the air that accompanied her along the way there. And this is one such love story which in continuum will she be found to be sing-telling.

Two young lovers of, sings Eve:

“Tis of Aucassin and Nicolette.

Who would list to the good lay

Gladness of the captive grey?

“Tis how two young lovers met,

Aucassin and Nicolette,

Of the pains the lover bore

And the sorrows he outwore,

For the goodness and the grace,

Of his love, so fair of face.

Sweet the song, the story sweet,

There is no man hearkens it,

No man living ‘neath the sun,

So outwared, so foredone,

Sick and woful, worn and sad,

But is healed, but is glad

“Tis so sweet.

Waiting patiently

There were many who had been waiting patiently for the coming of one like unto Eve, and with hearing of her sudden appearing, did warmly welcome her, and gladly accepted her words into their hearts.

At the same time, wherever she entered be it a village, town or fortified city, both she and her words met with strong opposition. And this opposition came from many quarters, but nowhere more so than from the teachers of Laws, namely Halakha Law (Jewish), Canon Law (Christian), and Sharia Law (Islamic). They feared her person as much as they did her words, for she had a way of speaking; a way of replying to them that would more oft than not leave them feeling utterly foolish.

Now, under normal circumstances, these three once highly respected schools of theology would sadly at best tolerate each other, and even more sadly at worst criticize each other or ignore each other completely. However, with getting word that Eve of the Desert was coming, they would for strength and safety either lock together to form 'Halcansha Law' or arrogantly try to take her on individually.

Whichever way, be it as a united front or on their own, they would with a plethora of hackneyed phrases gleaned from their extensive learning, tempestuously and mercilessly try to out wise her; try to shame her. However, all their efforts proved to be of no avail, for she was walking with joyfulness of heart in the presence of the Almighty.

Now, early of a morn, Eve was with contentedly strolling on her own along the seashore, when she saw a little ways up in front of her, a young seagull greedily pecking away at the rotting carcass of a small fish. And with nearing, the seagull feeling himself to be under some kind of an imaginary threat started screeching at Eve, and frantically prancing up and down, with his wings stretched out and dropping in act of trying to protect the carcass.

And Eve softly spoke to him, saying,

"Dear Seagull, I am not interested in it. Don't worry. You can have it all for yourself. Yet, why may I ask are you wasting your time and effort on that useless thing when you could be out there instead with the others happily catching something fresh, savoury, and nutritious for yourself?"

And with hearing her words the young seagull ascended from off the carcass, and took to flight out o'er the shimmering waters.

And Eve with a great smile, and her long black hair blowing in the wind, did continue on with her strolling along the welcoming new day shore.

In all things good

In all things good of, tells Eve:

Count Bougars de Valence made war on Count Garin de Biaucaire.

The war so great, and so marvellous, and so mortal that never a day dawned but always he was there, by the gates and walls, and barriers of the town with a hundred knights, and ten thousand men at arms, horsemen and footmen: so burned he the Count's land, and spoiled his country, and slew his men.

Now, the Count Garin de Biaucaire was old and frail, and his good days were well gone over. No heir had he, neither son nor daughter, save one young man only; such a one as I shall tell you. Aucassin was the name of the damoiseau: fair was he, goodly, and great, and feately fashioned of his body, and limbs. His hair was yellow, in wavy curls, his eyes blue and laughing, his face handsome and shapely, his nose high and well set, and so richly seen was he in all things good, that in him was found no troublesomes at all. But so suddenly overtaken was he of Love, who is a great master, that he would not, of his will, be dubbed knight, nor take arms, nor follow tourneys, nor do whatsoever him beseemed. Therefore his father and mother said to him;

“Son, go take thine arms, mount thy horse, and hold thy land, and help thy men, for if they see thee among them, more stoutly will they keep in battle their lives, and lands, and thine, and mine.”

“Father,” said Aucassin, “I marvel that you will be speaking. Never may the Almighty give me aught of my desire if I be made knight, or mount my horse, or face stour and battle wherein knights smite and are smitten again, unless thou give me Nicolette, my true love, that I love so well.”

“Son,” said the father, “this may not be. Let Nicolette go, a slave girl she is, out of a strange land, and the Captain of this town bought her of the Saracens, and carried her hither, and hath reared her and let christen the maid, and took her for his daughter in the Almighty, and one day will find a young man for her, to win her bread honourably. Herein hast thou naught to make or mend, but if a wife thou wilt have, I will give thee the daughter of a King, or a Count. There is no man so rich in this land, but if thou desire his daughter, thou shalt have her.”

“Faith! my father,” said Aucassin, “tell me where is the place so high in all the world, that Nicolette, my sweet lady and love, would not grace it

well? If she were Empress of Constantinople it were little enough for her; so gentle is she and courteous, and debonaire, and compact of all good qualities.”

Person made free

Eve was sitting by the shimmering waters of a lake, and enjoying chatting about the power of the Almighty with some people who happened to be there.

Now, seemingly all out of the blue, a man came shouting towards them along the shore of the lake, and he screamed out in a loud voice directed at Eve, saying, “Ah! What do you want with us? Are you here to destroy us? We know who you are!”

And she knew from the way of the man that some troublesomes had taken possession of him. With conviction, she ordered the troublesomes, saying, “Be calm; be calm, now be calm, and come out of the man!”

The troublesomes threw the man down in front of Eve, and immediately departed out of him without doing him any harm. The people about were all amazed and said one to another, “What kind of words are these? With conviction and power this woman gives orders to troublesomes, and they depart out of a person!”

And the man, from whom the troublesomes had been made free, did take to telling Eve how he had stupidly let himself become possessed of them in the first place.

And, all of them there upon the shimmering shore knew the man’s words to be a blessing, and a light unto their day.

Strolling in wide open spaces

For most of the lovely night in happy contemplation had Eve been strolling in wide open spaces beneath a beautiful starry heavens. And come the dawn, some people found her to be on her own, and she contentedly sleeping in a date palm grove. And with seeing her there they became very happy, and immediately went and fetched others for they wished all to hear her words when she would awake. And with their returning, Eve with a smile awoke, and began speaking to them saying,

“Store good words in your heart, and you will be always and everywhere finding yourself to be in goodness. Loyalty and kindness will always be with you. Paint your good words in the blue canvas of day, and in the starry canvas of night. In this way, you will always be with reminding yourself of goodness. Place your trust in the beauty of your words. Grow and culture in your understanding of beauty and love. The path of beauty and love always welcomes you to come walk it.”

Now, in the gathering there in the grove, there were both men and women who were not alone charmed by the beauty of her words, and the way in which she spoke them, but were also greatly enamoured of her physical beauty. In all their life they had never seen such a beautiful looking human being.

They were becoming lost in her mellifluous words, and in her gazelle like eyes. And they were on the point of going crazy; so much so that they were biting the tips of their fingers and the backs of their hands, and to the extent that they were even drawing blood. Several from among them not being able to contain themselves any longer, said to Eve.

“If you will allow it we will follow you wherever you go, for we cannot bear that your beauty be absent from our eyes, and your words from our ears.”

And Eve did give them answer, softly saying,

“Be instead with remaining here, and with finding the beauty that is in your grandparents, parents, and in your beloved’s words and appearance; the beauty that is in your children and in their words, and in all whom you regularly associate with. I am in no need of a following.”

And with saying these words, Eve gracefully rose to her feet, and with uttering parting words did alone stroll away into the wide open spaces.

Goodly castle

A goodly castle of, sings Eve:

Aucassin was of Biaucaire
Of a goodly castle there,
But from Nicolette the fair
None might win his heart away
Though his father, many a day,
And his mother said him nay,
“Ha! Fond child, what wouldest thou?
Nicolette is glad enow!
Was from Carthage cast away,
Paynims sold her on a day!
Wouldst thou win a lady fair
Choose a maid of high degree
Such a one is meet for thee.”
“Nay of these I have no care,
Nicolette is debonaire,
Her body sweet and the face of her
Take my heart as in a snare,
Loyal love is but her share
That is so sweet.”

Great catch of fish

One morning, Eve was standing on the seashore when some local village people came to her to listen to her words. She noticed two boats pulled up on the shore; the fishermen had left them and were washing the nets. She requested of one of the fishermen if he wouldn't mind they putting the boat a little out from the shore, that she may sit in it, and from there continue with talking to his fellow villagers. She sat in the boat there a little out from the shore, and enjoyed talking about many things to the people who were sitting about.

Now, when she had finished speaking, she requested of the fisherman, saying, "Please, sail the boat out further to the deeper water, and you and your crew let down your nets there for a catch."

Having reached the deeper water; it being no more than a mile or so from the shore, the fisherman said to her, "Eve, truly we worked exhaustively throughout the night, yet come the morning light, we had not caught a single fish. But if you say so, we will let down the nets."

They let them down and caught such a large number of fish that the nets were about to break. So they shouted and motioned to their fellow fishermen who were still on the shore, to come in the other boat to help them. They came and filled both boats so full of fish that the boats were about to sink.

With reaching the shore everyone was amazed at the large number of fish that had been caught. And the people asked Eve, saying, "How; how did this great marvel come to be?"

"The Almighty with seeing, and knowing the goodness of your village caused it to be, and be it was."

And they did happily share of their bountifulness with all the villages in the surrounding area, and even with those in the near inland.

In an upper chamber

In an upper chamber of, tells Eve:

When the Count Garin de Biaucaire knew that he would avail not to withdraw Aucassin his son from the love of Nicolette, he went to the Captain of the city, who was his man, and spake to him, saying:

“Away with Nicolette thy daughter in the Almighty; cursed be the land whence she was brought into this country, for by reason of her do I lose Aucassin, that will neither be dubbed knight, nor do aught of the things that fall to him to be done. And wit ye well,” he said, “that if I might have her at my will, I would burn her in a fire, and yourself might well be sore adread.”

“Sir Count,” said the Captain, “this is grievous to me that he comes and goes and hath speech with her. I had bought the maiden at mine own charges, and nourished her, and baptized, and made her my daughter in the Almighty. Yea, I would have given her to a young man that should win her bread honourably. With this had Aucassin thy son naught to make or mend. But, sith it is thy will and thy pleasure, I will send her into that land and that country where never will he see her with his eyes.”

“Have a heed to thyself,” said the Count Garin, “thence might a great many troublesomes come lay hold up in thee.” So parted they each from other.

Now, the Captain was a right rich man: so had he a rich palace with a garden in face of it; in an upper chamber thereof he let place Nicolette, with one old woman to keep her company, and in that chamber put bread and meat and wine and such things as were needful. Then he let seal the door, that none might come in or go forth, save that there was one window, over against the garden, and strait enough, where through came to them view and air.

With rounding a bend

Early of an afternoon, and Eve was on her own happily strolling to a very pleasant hillside, when to her surprise she saw with rounding a bend, a middle aged frown infested woman sitting on a perch, as if she had been waiting for her to come on by that way.

And, with Eve nearing, the woman without budging from her perch, did with removing a twig or a root of some sort from her mouth, seductively say down to Eve,

“Ya, well proportioned. How would you like to work for me? I can teach you a thing or two. I will pay you more than I pay my other girls, you being that bit older and all. I am good at my profession; have got a good reputation in these parts of being able to reduce women to commodities and convince them to sell their bodies to select clientele. How about it rare bird of the sands? I can give you a future that has a regular income.”

And, Eve with purity of heart; purity of intention, and in purity of gaze and countenance did confidently say in her lovely way,

“Come down and walk with me.”

So the female broker of women leapt down, and walked with her all the way to the pleasant hillside.

And as they were walking, Eve began to gently rekindle in her the profound beauty, love, and fragrances witnessed and alluded to in the Honourable Torah, the Honourable Gospels, and the Honourable Qur'an.

On the hillside, Eve spoke on many things to the people who were gathered there, which included the said female broker of women.

Now, later in the afternoon, the broker of women invited Eve, and any of the others who had been listening there on the hillside, to her villa as dinner guests if they so wished, along with all of her own girls. But when the teachers of religious Laws, who had followed at a distance, and who only went as far as the entrance to the villa, saw her going and eating with a broker of women, and her girls, they asked one to another, “What; what is this? Why does she associate with such filth? Doesn’t she know the teachings of our Laws pertaining to such matters? Why does she eat with such scum of the earth?”

When Eve heard this, she said to them, “You have spoken the truth in saying ‘our Laws’ surely. There’s no one who isn’t in need of a doctor at one time or another in his or her life. I have come in from the desert to talk and to listen to those who think they are in the very best of health when in truth they are far from it. I have come to talk not alone to those who think they are righteous religiously, but to those who knowingly or unknowingly are defiling their own dignity; and in turn the dignity of others.”

And with overhearing that word, the broker of women broke down into a state of uncontrollable crying, and could not help herself sobbing for she had so much to cry over. And with seeing her, her girls too with becoming aware that their hearts were being shaken back into goodness by Eve’s word, found themselves also to be sobbing uncontrollably.

And from that moment, the broker of women knew that her many years of wrongdoing were over. And she did wholeheartedly give thanks to the Almighty, and to Eve. And with the giving of thanks for such bountiful compassion, her forehead became smooth and her countenance beautiful.

The girls with having already receiving their freedom from her knew that their own seasons of wrongdoing were also now over; that they were being made anew in the compassion of the Almighty. And they too did wholeheartedly give thanks to the Almighty, and to Eve. And with the giving of thanks for such bountiful compassion, they found themselves to be with their original dignity fully restored.

And, Eve said to all who were there, including those who had preciously only come as far as the entrance, “I do not patch old clothing with new cloth. For if I were to do so the new patch would in no time rip away from the old cloth, leaving in it an even bigger tear than before. I do not put new ideas into old set in their ways minds. For the ideas would only confuse such minds, and the ideas and the minds would be both lost. New ideas call for new minds. And, I would have you to underestimate not the initiatives and the bountiful compassion of the Almighty.”

And with seeing all and hearing all, the teachers of religious Laws did leave very heavyhearted from out of the presence of Eve, for their minds were becoming ever so befuddled by her words, and as much so again even by her way.

Stood in thought

Stood in thought of, sings Eve:

Nicolette as ye heard tell
Prisoned is within a cell
That is painted wondrously
With colours of a far country,
And the window of marble wrought,
There the maiden stood in thought,
With straight brows and yellow hair
Never saw ye fairer fair!
On the wood she gazed below,
And she saw the roses blow,
Heard the birds sing loud and low,
Therefore spoke she wofully:
“Ah me, wherefore do I lie
Here in prison wrongfully:
Aucassin, my love, my knight,
Am I not thy heart’s delight,
Thou that lovest me aright!
‘Tis for thee that I must dwell
In the vaulted chamber cell,
Hard beset and all alone!
By our Lady Mary’s firstborn son
Here no longer will I wonn,
If I may flee!

Marvellous things

One day, when Eve was in the courtyard of a noble house talking to a group of people about beauty, some difficult-minded people were also sitting there nearby.

Now, as she was enjoying talking, some men came carrying a totally paralysed young woman on a makeshift bed, and they tried to take her into the courtyard, and put her in front of Eve, but because of the crowd, they could find no way to take her in. So they patiently, and with heart full expectation, decided to wait there where they were instead, and for Eve to find them. When Eve came forth from the house, and with seeing so much love in their eyes, she said to the young woman, "Your love for knowledge of beauty, my dear friend, will make you completely whole."

The difficult-minded people began to say to themselves, "Who is this woman who speaks such nonsense? Saying, that love for knowledge of beauty will heal a person, is simply ludicrous!"

Eve knew their thoughts and said to them, "Why do you think such things? Is it easier to say, 'Your love for knowledge of beauty will make you completely whole,' or to say, 'Get up and walk?' I will prove to you, then, that the power of beauty to make one completely whole is real."

So she said to the paralysed woman, "Dear friend, arise from out of your lifelong captivity, and be with strolling with me in the garden; yes, just you and me, for we have much to talk about concerning knowledge of beauty and its power."

At once the beautiful young woman with tears of joy streaming down her face got up in front of them all, and walked next to Eve into the garden. All were absolutely amazed! And, even the difficult-minded people with joyfulness of heart did say one to another, "What marvellous things we have heard and seen today! Indeed we are glad!"

Love in all the world

Love in all the world of, tells Eve:

Nicolette was in prison, as ye have heard soothly, in the chamber. And the noise and bruit of it went through all the country and all the land, how that Nicolette was lost. Some said she had fled the country, and some that the Count Garin de Biaucaire had let slay her. Whosoever had joy thereof, Aucassin had none, so he went to the Captain of the town and spoke to him, saying:

“Sir Captain, what hast thou made of Nicolette, my sweet lady and love, the thing that best I love in all the world? Hast thou carried her off or ravished her away from me? Know well that if I die of it, the price shall be demanded of thee, and that will be well done, for it shall be even as if thou hadst slain me with thy two hands, for thou hast taken from me the thing that in this world I loved the best.”

“Fair Sir,” said the Captain, “let these things be. Nicolette is a captive that I did bring from a strange country. Yea, I bought her at my own charges of the Saracens, and I bred her up and baptized her, and made her my daughter in the Almighty. And I have cherished her, and one of these days I would have given her a young man, to win her bread honourably. With this hast thou naught to make, but do thou take the daughter of a King or a Count. Nay more, what wouldst thou deem thee to have gained, hadst thou made her thy leman, and taken her to thy bed? Plentiful lack of comfort hadst thou got thereby, for in the Hell would thy soul have lain while the world endures, and into the Heaven wouldst thou have entered never.”

“In the Heaven what have I to win? Therein I seek not to enter, but only to have Nicolette, my sweet lady that I love so well. For into the Heaven go none but such folk as I shall tell thee now: Thither go these same old priests, and halt old men and maimed, who all day and night cower continually before the altars, and in the crypts; and such folk as wear old amices and old clouted frocks, and naked folk and shoeless, and covered with sores, perishing of hunger and thirst, and of cold, and of little ease. These be they that go into the Heaven, with them have I naught to make. But into the Hell would I fain go; for into the Hell fare the goodly clerks, and goodly knights that fall in tourneys and great wars, and stout men at arms, and all men noble. With these would I liefly go. And thither pass the sweet ladies and courteous that have two lovers, or

three, and their lords also thereto. Thither goes the gold, and the silver, and cloth of vair, and cloth of gris, and harpers, and merrymakers, and the princes and princess of this world. With these I would gladly go, let me but have with me, Nicolette, my sweetest lady so."

"Certes," quoth the Captain, "in vain wilt thou speak thereof, for never shalt thou see her; and if thou hadst word with her, and thy father knew it, he would let burn in a fire both her and me, and thyself might well be sore adread."

"That is even what irketh me," quoth Aucassin. So he went from the Captain sorrowing.

Night in a lonely place

Eve had spent the entire night in a lonely place listening in her heart to the Almighty. And with the coming of the dawn, she knew that the new day was going to be different from previous days; it was going to bring to her a greater pain of heart.

It was about the midday hour, and she found herself to be in an isolated place where rocks had once been quarried. And with walking she heard-smelt the stench of fiendish laughter coming from up ahead. Her heart stirred within her as she slowly approached the edge of a massive hole; an open quarry. And the terrible sight that she beheld therein would have caused anyone else's heart to immediately congeal; would have caused even a heart of marble to melt. But Eve's heart was a witnessing heart to the power of the Almighty. What she beheld there before her was an abomination; the absolute lowest of the lowest of human actions.

There within that quarry crater, and all dressed in their full regalia was a group of Catholic Christian bishops, priests, nuns, and ordained brothers of all ages sexually molesting thousands of children; thousands of children both boys and girls ranging in ages from about five to somewhere about thirteen. And the only sound to be heard-smelt from out of that den was that of the stench of the depraved laughter of the captors; the captives having been traumatised senseless into silence.

And Eve did stretch forth her right hand, and her heart did call the children to come up to her. And when the crater was completely emptied of every child she lowered her hand, and she opened her mouth to speak to those therein; to speak to them the lowest of the low, saying,

“The hour of the Almighty has come upon you for you have disowned what it means to be human; you have disgraced your siblings, parents, and your ancestors, you have insulted your privileged calling, you have distorted the words of the sacred texts; you have destroyed the innocent and the pure which had been given in full trust into your care. But above all you have turned your backs on the love of the Almighty. May the Almighty's way of dealing with your kind be according to the Almighty's way.”

And they there within began to frantically try to crawl up out of the crater; crawling up out of it by stampeding and stumping on top of each other, but not one of them; not a single one of them were able to set themselves free from that place. And they were with crying up to Eve for

mercy, saying,

“It was the beauty and the innocence of the children that made us do it! Yes, yes, the children are all possessed of troublesomes of beauty and innocence! It was their troublesomes that made us do it! Cast them back and set us free instead for it is they who made us do such terrible and deplorable things! We were only trying to rid them of their troublesomes of beauty and innocence! We were only doing the Almighty’s work of trying to rid the world of such possessions!”

And Eve did make them no reply, but only turned and began to walk away with leading the children from that horrible scene. And she did leave them who were there within the crater to the might of the Almighty.

And with having come some distance, she and the children turned and watched as clouds gathered there in the sky solely above the crater; a host of dark clouds. And there did pour down hailstones, sleet, and rain in torrents into that hole until it became all but filled level with the surrounding land. Not a single inhabitant of the therein was given to survive that torrential outpouring from the above.

And the thousands of children who were all still in a state of traumatised silence found themselves being bathed by the warmth of the sun, and they became as new born children with no remembrance whatsoever of what had happened to them, not alone on that day, but for the last few years of their life. Nor were they left with any damages whatsoever to their bodies. And Eve was with tears of joy at hear-scenting the lovely fragrance of children’s laughter filling the air.

And the Almighty did return each of the children to their parents.

Now, many from among those parents felt greatly ashamed of themselves for they on numerous occasions having been over interested in their own life had turned a blind eye and a deaf ear to their son’s pleas for help, and their daughter’s cries upon waking out of nightmares. And the Almighty dealt unto those parents with compassion, for they too like their children had been victims of that system; that system which they had been cultured from generations to the generations to believe to be alone the Almighty’s system.

Love so bright

Love so bright of, sings Eve:

Aucassin did so depart
 Much in dole and heavy at heart
For his love so bright and dear,
 None might bring him any cheer,
None might give good words to hear,
 To the palace doth he fare
Climbeth up the palace-stair,
 Passeth to a chamber there,
Thus great sorrow doth he bear,
 For his lady and love so fair.
“Nicolette how fair art thou,
 Sweet thy foot-fall, sweet thine eyes,
Sweet the mirth of thy replies,
 Sweet thy laughter, sweet thy face,
Sweet thy lips and sweet thy brow,
 And the touch of thine embrace,
All for thee I sorrow now,
 Captive in a troubled place,
Whence I ne'er may go my ways
 Lady love, sweet friend!”

Love of goodness

A spice and perfume merchant invited Eve to have dinner with him. So she went to his house and reclined down to eat.

Now, in that city was a woman who had been coerced into living an undignified way of life. She heard that Eve was eating in this man's house, so she brought an alabaster jar full of perfume and stood behind her, by her feet, crying and wetting her feet with her warm tears. Then she dried her feet with her long wavy hair, softly kissed them, and gently poured and soothed the perfume on them.

When the man of the house saw this, he became upset in himself, and said to himself, "If this woman really were of wisdom found, she would with even a side glance know who this woman is who is touching her feet; she would know what kind of shameful life she lives!"

Knowing his thoughts, Eve spoke up and said to him, "Honourable Host, I have something to tell you."

"Yes, please; please by all means," he said, "tell me."

"There were two debtors who owed money to an honest and good living creditor. One owed him twenty-five gold coins, and the other owed him seven. Neither of them, for various reasons, could pay him back, so he being the good person that he was cancelled the debts of both. Now, in your opinion, which one of them will show him the greater appreciation for his understanding and kindness?"

"I suppose," answered the man of the house, "that it would have to be the one who had the most cancelled."

"You are right."

Then Eve turned to the woman, and to the man of the house said, "Honourable Host, do you see this woman? I came into your house, and you gave me not a single drop of water for my feet, but she has washed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. You did not welcome me with a kiss, but she has not stopped kissing my feet since I came. You provided no fragrant oil for my head, but she has covered and soothed my feet with perfume. I tell you, then, the great love she has shown proves that her many indignities have been cancelled."

Then Eve said to the woman, "Your indignities are no more."

And at these words, she buried her face in her hands, and sobbed

ever so deeply.

The others sitting there at the table began to say to themselves, “Who does this one think she is?” “Is she for real; erase indignities?”

But Eve said to the woman, “Dignified woman, your childhood love of goodness has found you, and has set you free. Please, come recline next here to me, and let us be with enjoying the fine hospitality of this house.”

And the man of the house was truly well pleased, and from that night forth did make it so that the woman could live a life free of coercion; could live with utmost dignity, peace, and joy.

Fair covenant

Fair covenant, tells Eve:

While Aucassin was in the chamber sorrowing for Nicolette his love, even then the Count Bougars de Valence, that had his war to wage, forgat it no whit, but had called up his horsemen and his footmen, so made he for the castle to storm it. And the cry of battle arose, and the din, and knights and men at arms busked them, and ran to walls and gates to hold the keep. And the towns-folk mounted to the battlements, and cast down bolts of this that and the other. Then while the assault was great, and even at its height, the Count Garin de Biaucaire came into the chamber where Aucassin was making lament, sorrowing for Nicolette, his sweet lady that he loved so well.

“Ha! Son,” quoth he, “how caitiff art thou, and cowardly, that canst see men assail thy goodliest castle and strongest. Know thou that if thou lose it, thou lostest all. Son, go to, take arms, and mount thy horse, and defend thy land, and help thy men, and fare into the stour. Thou needst not smite nor be smitten. If they do but see thee among them, better will they guard their substance, and their lives, and thy land and mine. And thou art so great, and hardy of thy hands, that well mightst thou do this thing, and to do it is thy devoir.”

“Father,” said Aucassin, “what is this thou sayest now? The Almighty grant me never aught of my desire, if I be dubbed knight, or mount steed, or go into the stour where knights do smite and are smitten, if thou givest me not Nicolette, my sweet lady, whom I love so well.”

“Son,” quoth his father, “this may never be: rather would I be quite disinherited and lose all that is mine, than that thou shouldst have her to thy wife, or to love par amours.”

So he turned him about. But when Aucassin saw him going he called to him again, saying,

“Father, go to now, I will make with thee fair covenant.”

“What covenant, fair son?”

“I will take up arms, and go into the stour, on this covenant, that, if the Almighty bring me back sound and safe, thou wilt let me see Nicolette my sweet lady, even so long that I may have of her two words or three, and one kiss.”

“That will I grant,” said his father. At this was Aucassin glad.

Truly joyful

Eve was sitting outside a mosque happily talking to those who were gathered there about. And she was with saying to them,

“I am truly joyful for the wisdom of the ages is with me. And it is more profitable to me than gold or properties. I cannot compare anything as valuable to me as this wisdom, save my good health. By this wisdom am I being guided down enlightening pathways; pathways that are a blessing unto me, and unto all those with listening ears and paying attention eyes whom I happen to meet along the way. I embrace this wisdom as my fragrant tree of life. And by this wisdom do I establish the blessings of the Almighty.”

Now, as she was saying these things, an orthodox Jew wearing a long beard and dressed in traditional black attire came by, and with removing his hat, and begging everyone’s pardon, and with his beard wet with his tears, he pleaded with Eve, saying,

“Our young maidservant lies in bed in my home; she is in terrible pain, and is running a very high fever. My wife, our children, and me are beside ourselves with broken heartedness, for she is truly a most wonderful person, and is diligent in doing her duties. We all love her so very very much for she brings a joy to our lives in her words, and a blessing to our day by her smile.”

And Eve with eyes full of tears said, “I will go with you now and heal her.”

But the Jewish father, said,

“I am not worthy to have you come into my home. Just say the word from where you are here, and our dear maidservant will most certainly be healed. I know this to be true as a manager of monies because I am under the authority of my superiors, and I have authority over my staff. I only need to say, ‘Go,’ and they go, or ‘Come,’ and they come. And if I say to my cashiers, ‘Do this,’ they do it.”

When Eve heard this, she was amazed. Turning to those who were there about she said, “I tell you the truth, honestly I haven’t seen faith like this in a long time.”

Then Eve said to the all but broken hearted man, “Go back to your home, my friend with joyfulness of heart. Because you sincerely believed in your heart, the Almighty has made it to be so already.”

And the man did give thanks to the Almighty; did embrace Eve, and with joy did shake the hands of all who were there before the mosque. And he did joyfully run home to find his whole household to be out at the gate waiting for him, and with great joy they were with telling him the wonderful news that their maidservant A'ishah was completely healed.

And the man of faith came to learn that she had been healed the very same moment as Eve had said to him,

“Because you sincerely believed in your heart, the Almighty has made it to be so already.”

Wondrous brave

Wondrous brave of, sings Eve:

Of the kiss heard Aucassin
That returning he shall win.
None so glad would he have been
Of a myriad marks of gold
Of a hundred thousand told.
Called for raiment brave of steel,
Then they clad him, head to heel,
Twyfold hauberk doth he don,
Firmly braced the helmet on.
Girt the sword with hilt of gold,
Horse doth mount, and lance doth wield,
Looks to stirrups and to shield,
Wondrous brave he rode to field.
Dreaming of his lady dear
Setteth spurs to the destriere,
Rideth forward without fear,
Through the gate and forth away
To the fray.

Ferryboat

One afternoon, Eve got into a ferryboat to cross over to the other side of a very wide river. There were several others on board; none of whom did she know. And so they started out from the riverbank.

As they were crossing, Eve was sitting in the stern of the boat, and soon fell asleep in the warm sunshine, and was with happy dreaming. Now suddenly, a strong wind blew from out of nowhere down on the river, and the boat began to fill with water. Those who were on board, including the ferryman, found themselves to be in a state of fear and panic. And, with noticing her sleeping away contentedly in the stern, they came and frantically woke her up, saying,

“Ya; ya! We are about to die; we are all about to die!”

Eve slowly stood up, and gave a good word to the wind and the stormy waters. They immediately died down, and calmness was restored. Then she said to her fellow passengers, and to the ferryman,

“Where is your trust in the Almighty?”

But they were amazed and with a new fear, and said one to another,

“Who is this woman? She gives a good word to the wind and the stormy waters, and they immediately listen to her!”

And she did again sit herself down, and returned to contentedly sleeping and happy dreaming.

Sermon me no sermons

Sermon me no sermons, tells Eve:

Aucassin was armed and mounted as ye have heard tell. Wondrous, wondrous, how goodly sat the shield on his shoulder, the helm on his head, and the baldric on his left haunch! And the damoiseau was tall, fair, feately fashioned, and hardy of his hands, and the horse whereon he rode swift and keen, and straight had he spurred him forth of the gate. Now, believe ye not that his mind was on kine, nor cattle of the booty, nor thought he how he might strike a knight, nor be stricken again: nor no such thing. Nay, no memory had Aucassin of aught of these; rather he so dreamed of Nicolette, his sweet lady, that he dropped his reins, forgetting all there was to do, and his horse that had felt the spur, bore him into the press and hurled among the foe, and they laid hands on him, and took him captive, and seized away his spear and shield, and straightway they led him off a prisoner, and were even now discoursing of what death he should die.

And when Aucassin heard them,

“Ha! The Almighty,” said he, “and the sweet Lady Mary’s Jesus be these my deadly enemies that have taken me, and will soon deprive my body of its head? And once my head is agone, no more shall I speak with Nicolette, my sweet lady that I love so well. Natheless have I here a good sword, and sit a good horse unwearied. If now I keep not my head for her sake, the Almighty help her never, if she love me more!”

The damoiseau was tall and strong, and the horse whereon he sat was right eager. And he laid hand to sword, and fell a-smiting to right and left, and smote through helm and nasal, and arm and clenched hand, making a devastation about him, like a wild boar when hounds fall on him in the forest, even till he struck down ten knights, and seven be hurt, and straightway he hurled out of the press, and rode back again at full speed, sword in hand.

The Count Bougars de Valence heard say they were about to make Aucassin, his enemy be no more, so he came into that place, and Aucassin was ware of him, and gat his sword into his hand, and lashed at his helm with such a stroke that he drove it down on his head, and he being stunned, fell grovelling. And Aucassin laid hands on him, and caught him by the nasal of his helmet, and gave him to his father.

“Father,” quoth Aucassin, “lo here is your mortal foe, who hath so

warred on you with all malengin. Full twenty years did this war endure, and might not be ended by man."

"Fair son," said his father, "thy feats of youth shouldst thou do, and not seek after folly."

"Father," saith Aucassin, "sermon me no sermons, but fulfill my covenant."

"Ha! What covenant, fair son, dost thou speak of?"

"What, father, hast thou forgotten it? By mine own head, whosoever forgets, will I not forget it, so much it hath me at heart. Didst thou not covenant with me when I took up arms, and went into the stour, that if the Almighty brought me back safe and sound, thou wouldest let me see Nicolette, my sweet lady, even so long that I may have of her two words or three, and one kiss? So didst thou covenant, and my mind is that thou keep thy word."

"I!" quoth the father, "The Almighty forsake me when I keep this covenant! Nay, if she were here, I would let burn her in the fire, and thyself shouldst be sore adread."

"Is this thy last word?" quoth Aucassin.

"So help me the Almighty," quoth his father, "yea!"

"Certes," quoth Aucassin, "this is a sorry thing meseems, when a man of thine age lies!"

"Count of Valence," quoth Aucassin, "I took thee?"

"In sooth, Sir, didst thou," saith the Count.

"Give me thy hand," saith Aucassin.

"Sir, with good will."

So he set his hand in the other's.

"Now givest thou me thy word," saith Aucassin, "that never whiles thou art living man wilt thou avail to do my father dishonour, or harm him in body, or in goods, but do it thou wilt?"

"Sir, in the Almighty's name," saith he, "mock me not, but put me to my ransom; ye cannot ask of me gold nor silver, horses nor palfreys, vair nor gris, hawks nor hounds, but I will give you them."

"What?" quoth Aucassin. "Ha, knowest thou not it was I that took thee?"

"Yea, sir," quoth the Count Bougars.

“The Almighty help me never, but I will make thy head be no more upon thy shoulders, if thou makest not troth,” said Aucassin.

“In the Almighty’s name,” said he, “I make what promise thou wilt.”

So they did the oath, and Aucassin let mount him on a horse, and took another and so led him back till he was all in safety.

Located beyond the boundary

Eve from a distance had been greatly admiring the architectural finesse of a large beautiful mosque, a large beautiful synagogue, and a large beautiful church located beyond the boundary of an extensive garden. And she did enter the garden.

Now, teachers of religious Laws from each one of these sanctified places, with getting word that she was in the garden, gathered together. And as a united group, and in their official garb they did hurriedly enter into the garden where they found Eve sitting by a pond, and she happily speaking to the fish therein. With nudging and looking sideways to each other they began to laugh and laugh, and pointing to her saying,

“Ya, is this the one; is this one we have been hearing so much about: someone who talks to fish? Maybe she also talks to stones, trees, birds, and clouds.”

Eve with hearing their laughter and words took no notice of them, but instead stayed in conversation with the fish.

Not wanting to miss this opportunity to belittle her, they shufflingly approached. And one senior from among them spoke for all when he sarcastically and provokingly said to her,

“Ya, teacher of fish, we will follow you wherever you go, but first let us to return to our places of worship to bury our Laws.”

Eve replied, saying,

“I have no need of a following. Let me be for I am already in the very best of company. And besides why not let them bury themselves themselves?”

And they had no answer for her. And with each going their separate way, they hastily returned to the safety of their familiar.

And Eve spoke to the fish, saying,

“Even camels have canvases to shade in, sheep pens to feel safe in, and donkeys sheds to lie in, but Eve of the Desert is at times hard pressed to recline her ideas anywhere in a place.”

And the fish were given to speak unto her, saying,

“The wisdom of the Almighty is the light of your sight; a fragrance bright upon your shoulders it be. It keeps you safe on your way; your feet

do not stumble. Go where you will beyond all and any boundaries, and it will let you to recline your wholesome ideas wherever the greatest need for them be."

And Eve was well pleased with the profound words spoken unto her through the fish. And with gratitude and joy did she gracefully rise to her feet, and did stroll with scenting the fragrances of that serene place. And she did leave from out of the garden by a different way from that which she had entered.

Dun-walled marble cell

A dun-walled marble cell of, sings Eve:

When the Count Garin doth know
That his child would ne'er forego
Love of her that loved him so,
Nicolette, the bright of brow,
In a dungeon deep below
Youth Aucassin did he throw.
Even there the youth must dwell
In a dun-walled marble cell.
There he waileth in his woe
Crying thus as ye shall know.
“Nicolette, thou lily white,
My sweet lady, bright of brow,
Sweeter than the grape art thou,
Sweeter than sack posset good
In a cup of maple wood!
Was it not but yesterday
That a palmer came this way,
Out of Limousin came he,
And at ease he might not be,
For a passion him possessed
That upon his bed he lay,
Lay, and tossed, and knew not rest
In his pain discomfited.
But thou camest by the bed,
Where he tossed amid his pain,
Holding high thy sweeping train,

And thy kirtle of ermine,
And thy smock of linen fine,
Then these fair white limbs of thine,
Did he look on, and it fell
That the palmer straight was well,
Straight was hale, and comforted,
And he rose up from his bed,
And went back to his own place,
Sound and strong, and full of face!
My sweet lady, lily white,
Sweet thy footfall, sweet thine eyes,
And the mirth of thy replies.
Sweet thy laughter, sweet thy face,
Sweet thy lips and sweet thy brow,
And the touch of thine embrace.
Who but doth in thee delight?
I for love of thee am bound
In this dungeon underground,
All for loving thee must lie
Here where loud on thee I cry,
Here for loving thee must die
For thee, my love.”

Anxious about destinations

One day a schemer of ideas came up and tried to trap Eve with his logic. He asked her, saying, “What must I do to enter the Heaven?”

Eve answered him, “The Heaven; enter the Heaven? What do your holy books say? How do you interpret them?”

The man answered, “Love the Almighty with all your heart, and as yourself your neighbour.”

“This is good; this is very good,” replied Eve; “do this and you are in the Heaven.”

But the schemer of ideas wanted to justify himself, so he asked, “How is it to be neighbourly?”

Eve answered by saying,

“Once, an elderly troubadour was journeying on his own down a quiet byway; happily singing and playing away as he went so he was, when some bullies, and just for the fun of it set upon him with thorns and briars, and smashed his beloved accompaniment.

Now it so happened, that an anxious about so many things Jewish rabbi and his retinue was going down that same byway; but when he saw the man, he quickly walked on by, on the other side. In the same way, an anxious about so many things Christian bishop and his retinue also came along, came over and took one look at the bleeding man, and carried on upon his way. Soon after, an anxious about so many things Islamic mullah and his retinue came that way, and coming over to look at him he did pray some prayers over him, but like the others he too continued on his way.

It was nearing the end of the day, when a carefree dog came on by, and with seeing the man there dropped his tail, and with the most compassionate of looks, came on over to him, and began to ever so gently lick the wounds on his face. And he did continue until he had all his wounds from his head to his feet licked clean. He lay in next to the man keeping him warm throughout the night. And with the coming of the new day, he quickly ran off barking, and within a very short time returned leading some saintly Carmelite nuns from a rundown monastery. And although they had next to nothing, they did take very good care of him till he was well enough again to be able to continue his journeying.”

And Eve concluded, “Now, in your opinion, which of these five

show us how to be neighbourly?"

The schemer of ideas, feeling somewhat ashamed answered, "The loving dog, and the saintly women of the monastery."

And Eve said, "Be neighbourly and you are in the Heaven."

Night still and serene

Night still and serene of, tells Eve:

Aucassin was cast into prison as ye have heard tell, and Nicolette, of her part, was in the chamber.

Now it was summer time, the month of May, when days are warm, and long, and clear, and the night still and serene. Nicolette lay one night on her bed, and saw the moon shine clear through a window, yea, and heard the nightingale sing in the garden, so she minded her of Aucassin her lover whom she loved so well. Then fell she to thoughts of Count Garin de Biaucaire, that hated her to the death; therefore deemed she that there she would no longer abide, for that, if she were told of, and the Count knew whereas she lay, an ill death would he make her die.

Now she knew that the old woman slept who held her company. Then she arose, and clad her in a mantle of silk she had by her, very goodly, and took napkins, and sheets of the bed, and knotted one to the other, and made therewith a cord as long as she might, so knitted it to a pillar in the window, and let herself slip down into the garden, then caught up her raiment in both hands, behind and before, and kilted up her kirtle, because of the dew that she saw lying deep on the grass, and so went her way down through the garden.

Her locks were yellow and curled, her eyes blue and smiling, her face feathly fashioned, the nose high and fairly set, the lips more red than cherry or rose in time of summer, her teeth white and small; her breasts so firm that they bore up the folds of her bodice as they had been two apples; so slim she was in the waist that your two hands might have embraced her, and the daisy flowers that brake beneath her as she went tip-toe, and that bent above her instep, seemed black against her feet, so white was the maiden.

She came to the postern gate, and unbarred it, and went out through the streets of Biaucaire, keeping always on the shadowy side, for the moon was shining right clear, and so wandered she till she came to the tower where her lover lay. The tower was flanked with buttresses, and she cowered under one of them, wrapped in her mantle. Then thrust she her head through a crevice of the tower that was old and worn, and so heard she Aucassin wailing within, and making dole and lament for the sweet lady he loved so well. And when she had listened to him she began to say. Will of it tell up the ways.

Of so little faith

Of a day, Eve boarded a large sailing vessel and started across seawaters. On board were several Jews, Christians, and Muslims.

Suddenly, a fierce sandstorm struck the waters, with waves breaking into the boat. But Eve was sleeping away contentedly in the bow, even with the turbulent sandy waters washing over her, and the sanded winds blowing wildly about her. Neither were her clothes made wet; her hair neither ruffled nor did a single grain of sand sully her skin.

Many of the passengers, and even members of the crew became frantic, almost hysterical, and with great difficulty made their way to the bow and woke her up, shouting,

“Save us! Save us! Save us! We are going to drown!”

Eve woke and said, “You are of so little faith.”

Then her heart spoke unto the sand and the wind, and suddenly, the air and the sky became refreshingly clean and clear and the sea was with a soft breeze blowing upon it. All who were on board were absolutely amazed; even the captain and his crew were amazed.

Passengers from one to another were saying, “Who is this woman?” “Even the waves, wind, and sand obey her!” “How great her faith is.” “Unworthy are we to be claiming ourselves Jews, Christians, and Muslims in the presence of such a wondrous faith.”

And, Eve for the remainder of the journey, and with taking no notice of what they were saying, returned to contentedly sleeping away in the bow to the dulcet sounds of the sails flapping in the breeze.

Bright of brow

Bright of brow of, sings Eve:

Nicolette the bright of brow
On a pillar leanest thou,
All Aucassin's wail dost hear
For his love that is so dear,
Then thou spakest, shrill and clear,
“Gentle knight withouten fear
Little good befalleth thee,
Little help of sigh or tear,
Ne'er shalt thou have joy of me.
Never shalt thou win me; still
Am I held in troubled will
Of thy father and thy kin,
Therefore must I cross the sea,
And another land must win.”
Then she cut her curls of gold,
Cast them in the dungeon hold,
Aucassin doth clasp them there,
Kissed the curls that were so fair,
Them doth in his bosom bear,
Then he wept, even as of old,
All for his love!

Rich in the sight

Late of an afternoon, Eve was sitting with some people on a cliff watching the sun set into the sea, and enjoying sharing a word or two with them she was on the giving of the moment unto a moment, when a woman from among them anxiously made this request of her, saying,

“Tell my brother there to divide with me the property our parents left us.”

Eve answered her, saying, “My friend, who gave me the right to judge or to divide the property between you and your brother?”

There was a long silence. And then she went on to say to the sister and brother, and to the others there too about,

“Watch out and guard yourselves from the subtleties of every kind of greed; because a person’s true life is not made up of the things he or she owns, no matter how rich or how wealthy they may be.”

There was a long silence. Then she told them this story.

“There was once an extremely rich and wealthy man of no more than thirty years of age whose land produced an exceeding supply of grain. He began to calculate to himself, ‘I haven’t anywhere to store all my grain. What can I do? Ah, yes, this is what I will do,’ he told himself; ‘I will tear down my old storages and construct massive new ones, where I will store my grain, and not alone my grain but as much and as many as I can of all my other worldly possessions; of the all and everything that belongs to me. Then I being well pleased with myself, will say unto myself, oh, lucky, lucky man you are; oh, lucky me! You have all the good things you need at least for many the year to come. Take your life nice and easy from now on; eat and drink plenty, lust, subjugate, and satisfy to the hilt!’

Now of a day, a holy one of the Almighty came and softly spoke unto him, saying, ‘You pitiful young man.’

And he in a raised voice inquired of the holy one, saying, ‘Why, why do you consider me to be pitiful, oh, seemingly penniless one?’

“This very night; yes, this very night you will have to give up your life; then who will get all these things you have accumulated for yourself? Will you be able to take them with you?”

And Eve concluded, “This is how it is with those who by all and any means possible accumulate material riches solely for themselves or even

their families, but who are not at all rich and wealthy in the sight of the Almighty.”

Love thee more

Love thee more of, tells Eve:

When Aucassin heard Nicolette say that she would pass into a far country, he was all in wrath.

“Fair sweet friend,” quoth he, “thou shalt not go, for then wouldst thou be my death. And the first man that saw thee and had the might withal, would take thee straightway into his bed to be his leman. And once thou camest into a man’s bed, and that bed not mine, wit ye well that I would not tarry till I had found a knife to pierce my heart and slay myself. Nay, verily, wait so long I would not: but would hurl myself on it so soon as I could find a wall, or a black stone, thereon would I dash my head so mightily, that the eyes would start, and my brain burst. Rather would I die even such a death, than know thou hadst lain in a man’s bed, and that bed not mine.”

“Aucassin,” she said, “I trow thou lovest me not as much as thou sayest, but I love thee more than thou lovest me.”

“Ah, fair sweet friend,” said Aucassin, “it may not be that thou shouldst love me even as I love thee. Woman may not love man as man loves woman, for a woman’s love lies in the glance of her eye, and the bud of her breast, and her foot’s tip-toe, but the love of man is in his heart planted, whence it can never issue forth and pass away.”

Now while Aucassin and Nicolette held this parley together, the town’s guards came down a street, with swords drawn beneath their cloaks, for the Count Garin had charged them that if they could take her they should slay her. But the sentinel that was on the tower saw them coming, and heard them speaking of Nicolette as they went, and threatening to slay her.

“The Almighty!” quoth he, “this were great pity to slay so fair a maid! Right great charity it were if I could say aught to her, and they perceive it not, and she should be on her guard against them, for if they slay her, then were Aucassin, my damoiseau, dead, and that were great pity.”

Feelings

Eve was talking to a group of people about love, beauty, and the need for everyone to be able to express their feelings on them, when a feelingless woman rose to her feet, and spoke to her of what it was like to be living a feelingless life, saying,

“When I was a little girl, I had all the lovely feelings of a little girl. Now I am a woman; a wife, and the mother of eleven, and haven’t a feeling left in my body. I don’t know how or why this has come to be. Please; please help me.”

And the feelingless woman continued, “I have only a very vague memory of what feelings felt like. When with listening to your words, I came to realise just how feelingless I have become. I could see that I have been thinking that being feelingless was natural; that this was the way the Almighty wanted me to be. I believe; yes, I believe that if you speak to my ready to receive heart, I will again be with feelings.”

Feeling her pain, and knowing her longing to feel as a woman needs to feel, Eve said to her,

“Beloved of the Almighty your feelings are being restored to you even as I speak these words.”

But some of the teachers of religious Laws who had been sitting nearby abruptly rose to their feet, and with shouting angrily said to her,

“That is blasphemy! You are a blasphemy, and a blasphemer! Do you think you are a Blessed of the Almighty? Are you without knowing that it is the Almighty who removes feelings and it is only the Almighty that can restore them? Who do you think you are restoring that which the Almighty has removed? This is outrageous; you are an outrage!”

And, Eve as calm and collected as the dawning of a new day asked them, saying,

“Why do you have such stupid thoughts? Is it easier to say ‘Your feelings have been restored to you,’ or ‘Walk on air?’” And they laughed at her.

And Eve continued, “Not that I need to prove to you or to anybody anything, but here is a slight indication; an inkling of the kind of person you are addressing.”

Then Eve turned to the once feelingless woman, and said,

“Walk there in the air.”

And in full view of everyone, the woman walked there in the air. Awe and fear swept through the group as they saw this happen.

And with she retuning back down, they all, save the teachers of religious Laws, went and joyfully embraced her with giving great thanks to the Almighty, for she was no longer the feelingless woman that they had known for years. She was made anew, and they felt that newness also to be of themselves.

And the woman did embrace Eve, and in tears of joy said to her,

“You have given me a new life; I feel so truly, truly wonderful!”

And Eve said to her, “This is but half the story. Now, show me in which direction your house is located.”

And the woman made anew pointed over the ways to near a grove of olive trees in the valley. And Eve with facing that way did say in her heart to the husband of this beautiful woman,

‘Open your heart to the true love of the Almighty.’

And to the children of this beautiful mother she did say,

‘Love her, love her, and love her.’

And Eve did send the woman back to her family with a heart filled with serenity and the assurance that her life would be very different from now on. It would be the life of a feeling woman; feelings that would be allowed to express themselves without any reservation, and be warmly received and understood by her loving husband and beloved children. And in the air did the woman joyfully run back to her family.

Valiant

Valiant of, sings Eve:

Valiant was the sentinel,
Courteous, kind, and practised well,
So a song did sing and tell
Of the peril that befell.
“Maiden fair that lingerest here,
Gentle maid of merry cheer,
Hair of gold, and eyes as clear
As the water in a mere,
Thou, meseems, hast spoken word
To thy lover and thy lord,
That would die for thee, his dear;
Now beware the ill accord,
Of the cloaked men of the sword,
These have sworn and keep their word,
They will put thee to the sword
Save thou take heed!”

Nonpareil love

Eve was sitting in the shade of a rock dwelling when a young woman said to her,

“I’m so anxious about so many things that I can’t complete a night’s sleep; all my dreams are of worrying about providing for the morrow, and for all of the morrows still yet to come. I feel more married to my worries than I am a wife to my husband, a mother to our child or a good neighbour to my villagers. And most unfortunate; yes, most unfortunate, my husband is of the same worrying kind as myself.”

And Eve replied, saying,

“Be concerned, yes, but not anxious about the food you need to stay alive or about the clothes you need for your body. Life, while it clearly requires us to have food and clothing for our bodies is in fact much more important than the food we eat, and the clothes we wear. Look at the birds of the air there, they interestingly peck for some food here and there, and enjoy taking a sip of water every now and then; they don’t sow seeds or gather a harvest, and neither do they cry in the night about the coming day. Why, because the Almighty is abundantly providing for all their needs.

In the sight of the Almighty, you, your husband, and your child, and your neighbours are as precious as are the birds. Tell me, can you live a moment longer by being anxious about it?”

A long silence followed. And Eve continued with saying,

“Now, if you can’t even achieve such a thing, why need you to be so anxious about the other things? Look how the flowers there grow all along by the meandering stream; they don’t work or make clothes for themselves, and neither do they faint at the sight of the sunrise. Why, because the Almighty is abundantly providing for all their needs. So, let yourself not be all upset, always concerned about what you and your family will eat, drink, and wear. Rather, be quick to share even of the little that you have with your neighbours, and the plenty there will be to go round for everybody. There will even be some left over.

The Almighty who sees all knows all our needs and is seeing to it that they are being well taken care of even as we are here sitting in the shade of this rock dwelling. Only the free-hearted can appreciate the marvel of this nonpareil love.”

One stepping place

One stepping place of, tells Eve:

“Hal!” quoth Nicolette, “be the soul of thy father and the soul of thy mother in the rest of the Heaven, so fairly and so courteously hast thou spoken me! Please the Almighty, I will be right ware of them, the Almighty keep me out of their hands.”

So she shrank under her mantle into the shadow of the pillar till they had passed by, and then took she farewell of Aucassin, and so fared till she came unto the castle wall. Now that wall was wasted and broken, and some deal mended, so she clomb thereon till she came between wall and fosse, and so looked down, and saw that the fosse was deep and steep, whereat she was sore adread.

“Ah the Almighty,” saith she, “and the sweet divine Jesus! If I let myself fall hence, I shall break my neck, and if here I abide, to-morrow they will take me and burn me in a fire. Yet liefer would I perish here than that to-morrow the folk should stare on me for a gazing-stock.”

Then she crossed herself, and so let herself slip into the fosse, and when she had come to the bottom, her fair feet, and fair hands that had not custom thereof, were bruised and frayed, and the blood springing from a dozen places, yet felt she no pain nor hurt, by reason of the great dread wherein she went. But if she were in cumber to win there, in worse was she to win out. But she deemed that there to abide was of none avail, and she found a pike sharpened, that they of the city had thrown out to keep the hold. Therewith made she one stepping place after another, till, with much travail, she climbed the wall.

Now the forest lay within two crossbow shots, and the forest was of thirty leagues this way and that. Therein also were wild beasts, and beasts serpentine, and she feared that if she entered there they would slay her. But anon she deemed that if men found her there they would hale her back into the town to burn her.

On a fragrant promontory

One afternoon, Eve was sitting on a fragrant promontory, and with enjoying eating a delicious pomegranate, was reflectively looking out to sea, when some teachers of religious Laws came and asked her, saying,

“Why don’t you fast like the rest of us? We fast one minute out of every hour, one hour out of every day, one day out of every week, and one entire month out of every year. And of course we fast every night except on the day that we have fasted, and throughout the entire month of days. And this makes us wholesome. But you; you never fast. Why; why is this?”

And Eve enquired of them, saying,

“From what do you fast?”

“What do you mean, from what do we fast? We fast of course from eating food and the taking of any and all liquids.”

“I see. Why do you fast from these things which eventually only pass through the body?”

“We fast because it is required of us by the Law.”

“Don’t you fast at anytime from the Law?”

“Listen! Why don’t you fast; why don’t you follow the Law?”

And after some silent reflection, Eve answered, saying,

“It is not what goes into a person’s mouth that makes them unwholesome, but that which comes forth from their heart and through their mouth in their words. Wouldn’t it then be wiser to fast your heart from thinking unkindly of others, thus fasting your mouth from speaking any harmful words to them?”

“The Law makes no such requirement of us. The Law is complete in that it covers every aspect of our lives. The Law is the Law, and the Law it is that we proudly and meticulously follow. When however, we look at you, and are with hearing your words, we but see and hear a disgrace to the Law.”

“Tell me, this Law of yours that you so proudly and meticulously follow, does it require you to fast in your dreams or not?”

And with looking one to the other they knew if they answered, ‘It doesn’t.’ they would be admitting the Law was not complete. And, if they

said, 'It does.' they would only be making a fool of themselves. So they decided the safest thing to do was to give no answer whatsoever. And they left from out of the presence of Eve.

And with watching them depart, Eve thought to herself the wisdom of some of our humankind is surely only the wisdom of our humankind, and far it is removed from the wisdom of the Almighty.

And she resumed reflectively looking out to sea with taking in the delicious fragrances of the promontory, and enjoying sipping fresh shimmering well water from a wooden bowl.

Nothing know

Nothing know of, sings Eve:

Nicolette, the fair of face,
Climbed upon the coping stone,
There made she lament and moan
Calling on the Holy Prophet alone
For his mercy and his grace.
“Kingly sweet divine Jesus,
Listen, for I nothing know
Where to flee or whither go.
If within the wood I fare,
Lo, the wolves will slay me there,
Boars and lions terrible,
Many in the wild wood dwell,
But if I abide the day,
Surely worse will come of it,
Surely will the fire be lit
That shall burn my body away,
Kingly sweet divine Jesus,
Better seemeth it to me,
That within the wood I fare,
Though the wolves devour me there
Than within the town to go,
Ne'er be it so!”

Simplicity of life

In the middle of a moonlight night, a water carrier came to a fragrant garden to speak with Eve, and said,

“I know that you are a free-hearted one. No one could talk the way you do unless the Almighty were with her.”

“Friend, no one can experience the munificence of the Almighty without living in the moment.”

“How can I be living in the moment? I have hardly any time to eat for so busy am I with so many concerns from my family to my work.”

“I am telling you the truth, no one can experience the munificence of the Almighty without living in the moment. By moments moonlight comes through the archway there; breezes by moments softly blow wherever they wish in the trees beyond. It’s like that with everything and everyone who is living in the moment.”

“How can this be; why have I not been with knowing it?”

“You mean to say, this a fundamental simplicity of life you didn’t know, and you a water carrier?”

“It seems so to have been so.”

And they did happily and jokingly chat away till the coming of the dawn.

By a fair fountain

By a fair fountain of, tells Eve:

Nicolette made great moan, as ye have heard; then commended she herself to the Almighty, and anon fared till she came unto the forest. But to go deep in it she dared not, by reason of the wild beasts, and beasts serpentine. Anon crept she into a little thicket, where sleep came upon her, and she slept till prime next day, when the shepherds issued forth from the town and drove their bestial between wood and water. Anon came they all into one place by a fair fountain which was on the fringe of the forest, thereby spread they a mantle, and thereon set bread. So while they were eating, Nicolette wakened, with the sound of the singing birds, and the shepherds, and she went unto them, saying, "Fair shepherds, Kingly sweet divine Jesus keep you!"

"And the Almighty bless thee," quoth he that had more words to his tongue than the rest.

"Fair shepherds," quoth she, "know ye Aucassin, the son of Count Garin de Biaucaire?"

"Yea, well we know him."

"So may the Almighty help you, fair shepherds," quoth she, "tell him there is a rare bird in this forest, and bid him come find it, and if he can take it, he would not give one feather thereof for a hundred marks of gold, nay, nor for five hundred, nor for any ransom."

Then looked they on her, and saw her so fair that they were all astonished.

"Will I tell him thereof?" quoth he that had more words to his tongue than the rest; "foul fall him who speaks of the thing or tells him the tidings. These are but visions ye tell of, for there is no bird so splendid in this forest; no stag, nor lion, nor boar so great, that one of his feathers or limbs is worth more than two deniers, or three at the most, and ye speak of such great ransom. Foul fall him that believes your word, and him that telleth Aucassin. Ye be a Vision, and we have none liking for your company, nay, hold on your road."

"Nay, fair shepherds," quoth she, "nay, ye will do my bidding. For this bird is so mighty of medicine that thereby will Aucassin be healed of his torment. And lo! I have five sols in my purse, take them, and tell him: for within three days must he come hunting it hither, and if within three

days he find it not, never will he be healed of his torment.”

“My faith,” quoth he, “the money will we take, and if he come hither we will tell him, but seek him we will not.”

“In the Almighty’s name,” quoth she; and so took farewell of the shepherds, and went her way.

Reclining at table

Eve of an eve, was reclining at table as a guest in someone's house, when she noticed three there from among the many guests; two women and a man who weren't saying anything or eating anything, but were only busying themselves with packing as much food from the table as they could into baskets, which they intended to take away with them, and most likely to eat elsewhere. And the host of the house also with noticing them, politely asked them, saying,

“Friends, dear friends, why aren't you delighting to eat of my food here with me at my table?”

And they answered, saying, “We will eat it later in our own homes, for we need more time to be enjoying its many flavours.”

And the host was saddened by their answer.

Eve noticing his sadness, said to him, “Honourable host, permit me to speak a parable.”

“Welcome. Please go ahead, dear friend.”

And Eve told the following parable to all who were reclining at table, including those three who were still stuffing baskets with food.

“Now, there was once an enriching man, who from time to time out of the goodness of his heart, delighted in treating his many friends to a great meal in his house. When the preparations were complete, he sent his servants out to his friends' houses to invite them to come. And as usual there was no one from among them who didn't accept the invitation, for they knew he would have a fantastic spread. And all who came ate very well there at table, and went away to their homes greatly enriched. And happy indeed was the host.”

And one from among the guests; one of those who had been stuffing a basket with food, spoke to Eve saying,

“I hear your words in my ears, but what is the meaning of this parable?”

And Eve answered her, saying,

“The enriching man is a teacher of wisdom, and the meal is his teachings. He invited those who would welcome his word, and who with listening to them would discuss them with him. In other words, the food; his teachings were meant to be eaten at the table in his presence. They

were meant to be discussed with the host, for this is what the host looked forward to most of all: the happy banter of the sharing of diversified ideas in the very best of company. And with all having eaten very well they would contentedly return to their homes with much food for reflection. And greatly pleased was the host.”

And with hearing this, the three guests emptied their baskets of the food, and with asking pardon of the gracious host, and of all who were there, they did from that very moment on truly enjoy participating in the sumptuous meal.

Ancient way

An ancient way of, sings Eve:

Nicolette the bright of brow
From the shepherds doth she pass
All below the blossomed bough
Where an ancient way there was,
Overgrown and choked with grass,
Till she found the cross-roads where
Seven paths do all way fare,
Then she deemeth she will try,
Should her lover pass thereby,
If he love her loyally.
So she gathered white lilies,
Oak-leaf, that in green wood is,
Leaves of many a branch I wis,
Therewith built a lodge of green,
Goodlier was never seen,
Swore by the Almighty who may not lie,
“If my love the lodge should spy,
He will rest awhile thereby
If he love me loyally.”
Thus his faith she deemed to try,
“Or I love him not, not I,
Nor he loves me!”

Knower of the hidden

One day, and Eve being quite exhausted with journeying, sat down by a well that she happened to find along the way. It was close on midday as the sun was high in the clear blue sky. It was very warm, and she was about to try and get some water from the well, when a woman came by to draw some water. She with seeing Eve, quickly drew some water, and gave it to her to drink. It tasted wondrously refreshing.

And the woman asked Eve, saying,

“Where have you come from?”

And Eve answered, “From the future.”

“I mean from what town; what place have you come from?”

“I’ve come from the future.”

And she continued, with saying, “All those, including myself who drink albeit this wondrously refreshing water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water that I will give will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give will become a spring within the person which will provide them with life-giving water.”

“Please, if you will, let me have some of that water,” said the woman, “and then I will never be thirsty again, nor will I have to come here to draw any more water.”

“It’s going to heavily snow within a few minutes,” said Eve.

The woman laughed at her, and said, “Look; look to the clear blue sky! And besides, it never ever snows in these parts.”

“It’s going to heavily snow within a few minutes.”

Just then, and in a single moment the whole sky changed. Being amazed at such a sudden transformation, the woman said to Eve,

“I see you are a knower of the hidden. I’ve heard of your kind, but you’re the first one that I have ever met; ever spoken to. May I ask your name?”

“I who am talking with you.”

“I mean, what is your own name?”

“I who am talking with you.”

Then the woman invited Eve to come to her village to take shelter;

to come meet her family, and neighbours, and to talk with them about the life-giving water, and many other things.

And Eve went with her as the snow was beginning to fall, and stayed she did three days before resuming her journeying.

Good counsel

Good counsel of, tells Eve:

Nicolette built her lodge of boughs, as ye have heard, right fair and feteously, and wove it well, within and without, of flowers and leaves. So lay she hard by the lodge in a deep coppice to know what Aucassin will do. And the cry and the bruit went abroad through all the country and all the land, that Nicolette was lost. Some told that she had fled, and some that the Count Garin had let slay her. Whosoever had joy thereof, no joy had Aucassin. And the Count Garin, his father, had taken him out of prison, and had sent for the knights of that land, and the ladies, and let make a right great feast, for the comforting of Aucassin his son.

Now at the high time of the feast, was Aucassin leaning from a gallery, all woful and discomfited. Whatsoever men might devise of mirth, Aucassin had no joy thereof, nor no desire, for he saw not her that he loved. Then a knight looked on him, and came to him, and said:

“Aucassin, of that sickness of thine have I been sick, and good counsel will I give thee, if thou wilt hearken to me.”

“Sir,” said Aucassin, “gramercy, good counsel would I fain hear.”

“Mount thy horse,” quoth he, “and go take thy pastime in yonder forest, there wilt thou see the good flowers and grass, and hear the sweet birds sing. Perchance thou shalt hear some word, whereby thou shalt be the better.”

“Sir,” quoth Aucassin, “gramercy, that will I do.”

He passed out of the hall, and went down the stairs, and came to the stable where his horse was. He let saddle and bridle him, and mounted, and rode forth from the castle, and wandered till he came to the forest, so rode till he came to the fountain and found the shepherds at point of noon. And they had a mantle stretched on the grass, and were eating bread, and making great joy.

Enjoying the sunlight

Eve of a midmorning was sitting beneath a gracious tree, and enjoying the sunlight playing through its leaves and branches on to her countenance, and with reflecting on the sanctity of life; on the right everyone has to live, when she heard the sound of people nearing. And within moments there appeared from out of side streets, groups of people who were rushing along as if they were going somewhere to see something. And with inquiring of them, she received these answers.

“It has been announced to us that in fulfillment of our steadfast Jewish Laws, seven women are going to be stoned to death this afternoon in the city dump without the city walls. It promises to be very entertaining. You should come along with us, just for the fun of it.”

And another group answered, saying,

“It has been announced to us that in fulfillment of our steadfast Christian Laws, five men are going to be crucified to death this afternoon. It is happening in the city dump without the city walls. Come join us to see how they take it.”

And still another answered, saying,

“It has been announced to us that in fulfillment of our steadfast Muslim Laws, nine individuals are going to be dispatched by sword this afternoon in the city dump without the city walls. You should come with us for it is not often that we have a triple bill on the same day.”

Eve inwardly becoming greatly shocked at their answers, and with tears welling up in her eyes, and feeling herself to be faint and nauseated, withdrew herself from out of their presence, and into a secluded garden to pray did go.

Now come the late afternoon, she emerged from the garden, and went and again sat beneath the gracious tree. And from there she watched as the last of the spectators were returning to their homes. A few from among them were laughing half insanely while the vast majority were simply trudging along in a deafening silence with carrying a certain blankness in their stare.

And then Eve began to smell something awful in the air. And with smelling it, there appeared a group made up of teachers of the three religious Laws. And Eve noticed their garments were heavily stained; congealed stains. And they were self-righteously chatting among them-

selves. And with passing, they sternly glanced over Eve's way. And an aged one from among them threateningly addressed her saying,

"Ya, you watch your mouth as we could with impunity so very easily, and ever so speedily cause our Laws to have your pretty hide supplied with some indelible markings or even worse have it find itself to be food for some of the lower species who inhabit the city dump. Now, how does that sit in your ears, Eve of the Desert?"

And Eve with not flinching an eyelid did calmly give answer, saying,

"Fear rather for yourselves when the winds will be given to change direction. For those who are nearest to such fires as yours will be the very first to have their eyebrows, locks, and beards singed; the very first to be consumed by their flames. And I tell you, that on that day; that day which is surely coming, even roasted pork would be smelling purer."

And, they due to their boiling anger being quite unable to utter a single word unto her did hurriedly run away.

Now, with twilight having well descended, Eve made her way to the dump without the city walls. And with standing upon the verge of the dump, she stretched forth her right hand over it, and called out to all them who had been deprived of their life by those religious Laws, to be brought back to complete wholesomeness. And the number of those who had been restored to fragrant life numbered more than three thousand. And Eve warned them not to return to the city, but instead to make their way by starlight into the faraway, where they could in safety be able to start a whole new life in the love, in the beauty, and in the integrity of the Almighty.

And with great joyfulness and gratitude to the Almighty for such profound compassion, they did happily journey out into the star canopied welcoming faraway. And not one from among them as they went did cast an eye back to the city; to the city that they had once known, loved, and called home.

Gathered shepherds

Gathered shepherds of, sings Eve:

There were gathered shepherds all,
Martin, Esmeric, and Hal,
Aubrey, Robin, great and small.
Saith the one, “Good fellows all,
The Almighty keep Aucassin the fair,
And the maid with yellow hair,
Bright of brow and eyes of vair.
She that gave us gold to ware.
Cakes therewith to buy ye know,
Goodly knives and sheaths also.
Flutes to play, and pipes to blow,
May the Almighty him heal!”

Children happily playing

Eve with sitting on the steps of a beautiful building, and with enjoying watching some children happily playing, she heard loud voices.

And with looking, she saw five to nine self-righteous religious leaders, and they all aflushed, and they dragging and pushing a man of some thirty years of age along, and then flinging him down right next to her.

“Ya,” they said to her, “this man was caught in the very act of smiling. It is our reading of our sacred writings that such a man must be stoned to death, for according to them no adult either male or female must smile. Now, what do you have to say?”

They said this to trap Eve, so that they could accuse her of something; accuse her of anything at all under the sun. But she with taking a small stone began writing with it next to her on the step.

As they stood about furiously asking her a barrage of questions, she remained silent until eventually she smilingly said to them, “Whichever one of you has never smiled in his adult life in broad daylight or in deep of night, may throw the first stone at him.”

Then she resumed her writing on the step. When they heard this, they all left, one by one, the older ones first. She was left alone with the man still lying there next to her. She turned, and smilingly said to him, “Where are they? Is there no one left to condemn you?”

“No one,” he smilingly answered.

“Well, then,” she said, “I do not condemn you either. Go, and enjoy smiling, for the Almighty loves us to smile.”

And he with a great smiling face said, “The Almighty smiles to me through your words; smiles to me through your poem here.”

And with serenity and joy of heart, and in a smile of countenance most handsome, he took his leave of Eve, and returned to his wife and children who were anxiously waiting for him over the way there.

Again that anon ye sang

Song again that anon ye sang of, tells Eve:

When Aucassin heard the shepherds, anon he bethought him of Nicolette, his sweet lady he loved so well, and he deemed that she had passed thereby; then set he spurs to his horse, and so came to the shepherds.

“Fair shepherds, the Almighty be with you.”

“The Almighty bless you,” quoth he that had more words to his tongue than the rest.

“Fair shepherds,” quoth Aucassin, “say the song again that anon ye sang.”

“Say it we will not,” quoth he that had more words to his tongue than the rest, “foul fall him who will sing it again for you, fair sir!”

“Fair shepherds,” quoth Aucassin, “know ye me not?”

“Yea, we know well that you are Aucassin, our damoiseau, natheless we be not your men, but the Count’s.”

“Fair shepherds, yet sing it again, I pray you.”

“Hearken! by the Holy Heart,” quoth he, “wherefore should I sing for you, if it likes me not? Lo, there is no such rich man in this country, saving the body of Garin the Count, that dare drive forth my oxen, or my cows, or my sheep, if he finds them in his fields, or his corn, lest he lose his eyes for it, and wherefore should I sing for you, if it likes me not?”

“The Almighty be your aid, fair shepherds, sing it ye will, and take ye these ten sols I have here in a purse.”

“Sir, the money will we take, but never a note will I sing, for I have given my oath, but I will tell thee a plain tale, if thou wilt.”

“By the Almighty,” saith Aucassin, “I love a plain tale better than naught.”

“Sir, we were in this place, a little time agone, between prime and tierce, and were eating our bread by this fountain, even as now we do, and a maid came past, the fairest thing in the world, whereby we deemed that she should be a fay, and all the wood shone round about her. Anon she gave us of that she had, whereby we made covenant with her, that if ye came hither we would bid you hunt in this forest, wherein is such a rare

bird that, an ye might take her, ye would not give one feather of her for five hundred marks of silver, nor for no ransom; for this bird is so mighty of medicine, that, an ye could take her, ye should be healed of your torment, and within three days must ye take her, and if ye take her not then, never will ye look on her. So chase ye the rare bird, an ye will, or an ye will let be, for my promise have I kept with her.”

“Fair shepherds,” quoth Aucassin, “ye have said enough. The Almighty grant me to find this quarry.”

Love and compassion

Early of a sunbathed morn, and Eve was strolling in a fragrant marketplace when a severely mind-bothered person approached her. And Eve with love and compassion looked into his lonely eyes, and immediately he became free of all his troublesomes. And he did with gratitude to the Almighty, and to Eve, joyfully run home to his family.

People who were nearby, and with seeing this miraculous change take place in the man, asked one to another, "Who is this person who can do such wonders before our eyes?" But with some teachers of religious Laws also having witnessed the miracle, they said, "It is no wonder that she can do this for she gets her power from the smokeless fire."

Eve with hearing the latter's words replied,

"A smokeless fire for those who are knowledgeable of such things signifies the softly glowing embers found at the dawning of a new day. Know that a new day is upon you, and that this ember is about to give the fire of love and compassion to those who are ready to lay their needs upon it. Bring your needs; bring your many many needs to me, and I will give you life anew."

And they answered, saying, "You who aren't with us oppose us; you who aren't working with us is actually working against us."

And Eve, said,

"You have spoken a truth. Its fruit identifies the tree. When a tree is good, its fruit too will naturally be good. For as a person is in their heart so will they speak. A good person produces good things from the treasury of their good heart."

And Eve did continue with speaking to the teachers of religious Laws, and to those who were sitting and standing there about among the fragrances, saying,

"Do not withhold good from anyone or anything when it is in your power to help them. If you can help your neighbour now this very morning; this very day, don't say to him or her, 'Friend, come back tomorrow, and then I will help you.'

Don't plot any harm whatsoever against your neighbour, for those who live nearby greatly trust and love you.

Don't envy violent people or copy their ways. Such pitiful people

are detestable to humanity; a shame to the Almighty.

Bless the goodness being done in your immediate vicinity, and be with seeking out and blessing the goodness done in the near and far. For blessing the goodness is the way to expand the goodness.

Be gracious for this is the way of true humanity; graciousness being our noble heritage. Be wise; be wise, and be wise."

And a joy filling man; a seller of frankincense did give Eve a delicious bowl of hot tea. And she did with a smile receive it, saying, "Blessed be you generous seller of frankincense this day, and those beloved of you for all days."

And the peoples resumed their happy strolling and bantering among the fragrances and sounds of the ever-welcoming marketplace.

Through paths

Through paths of, sings Eve:

Aucassin when he had heard,
Sore within his heart was stirred,
Left the shepherds on that word,
Far into the forest spurred
Rode into the wood; and fleet
Fled his horse through paths of it,
Three words spake he of his sweet,
“Nicolette the fair, the dear,
‘Tis for thee I follow here
Track of boar, nor slot of deer,
But thy sweet body and eyes so clear,
All thy mirth and merry cheer,
That my very heart have slain,
So please the Almighty
To me maintain
I shall see my love again,
Sweet lady love, friend!”

Joyfully telling

Of an afternoon, and as Eve was walking along, she saw a young man who had been severely punished by society; he was missing his right eye, his right hand, and his right foot. Those who were accompanying Eve, asked her, saying,

“Whose wrongdoing caused him to commit a wrongdoing towards society? Was it his ancestors, parents or his so-called friends’ wrongdoing? Or could it have been the society’s own wrongdoing towards him?”

Without providing them with any answer, Eve went over and touched the man’s face, and his right eye was fully restored to him, his right arm, and his hand was fully restored to him, and with touching his right shin, his foot was fully restored to him.

And the man did run into the marketplace joyfully telling everyone what had been given to happen to him. And all who saw and heard what he had to say were amazed, and they said one to another, “Isn’t this the punished young man who had had his eye, hand, and foot removed from him for some wrong doing he had committed? But see here, here, and here! His eye, his hand, and his foot have all been fully restored to him. This is a marvel unto our age.”

And they put this question to him, he who was whole again, “How is it that you have had your eye, your hand, and your foot fully restored to you?”

He answered, “See that woman; see that woman over there sitting by the shimmering fountain? Well, she came and touched my face, and my eye was again with me, and I could clearly see with it; my arm, and my hand was again with me, and I could move and firmly hold things with it, and with touching my shin my foot was again with me, and I could dance it with my left foot.”

And the man, and those to whom he had been talking to came and sat about the fountain by Eve. And he that was whole again asked Eve, saying, “Why did you have mercy on me; why did you fully restore to me that which had been once mine, but had been removed from me for a wrongdoing I had committed?”

She answered, “It was not I who restored them, for I can do nothing of such in kind. Know it here, in your heart, that the way of the Almighty is always and everywhere mercy filling, and merciful. Being

mercy filling, and merciful is to be with bringing light and wholesomeness into the world."

And, Eve remained there happily chatting with them by the fragrant refreshing fountain till the first stars of dusk came to appear above the horizon.

Looking along the way

Looking along the way of, tells Eve:

Aucassin fared through the forest from path to path after Nicolette, and his horse bare him furiously. Think ye not that the thorns him spared, nor the briars, nay, not so, but tare his raiment, that scarce a knot might be tied with the soundest part thereof, and the blood sprang from his arms, and flanks, and legs, in forty places, or thirty, so that behind him men might follow on the track of his blood in the grass. But so much he went in thoughts of Nicolette, his lady sweet, that he felt no pain nor torment, and all the day hurled through the forest in this fashion nor heard no word of her.

And when he saw Vespers draw nigh, he began to weep for that he found her not. All down an old road, and grassgrown he fared, when anon, looking along the way before him, he saw such a one as I shall tell you. Tall was he, and great of growth, laidly and marvellous to look upon: his head huge, and black as charcoal, and more than the breadth of a hand between his two eyes, and great cheeks, and a big nose and broad, big nostrils and ugly, and thick lips redder than a collop, and great teeth yellow and ugly, and he was shod with hosen and shoon of bull's hide, bound with cords of bark over the knee, and all about him a great cloak twy-fold, and he leaned on a grievous cudgel, and Aucassin came unto him, and was afraid when he beheld him.

“Fair brother, the Almighty aid thee.”

“The Almighty bless you,” quoth he.

“As the Almighty he helpeth thee, what makest thou here?”

“What is that to thee?”

“Nay, naught, naught,” saith Aucassin, “I ask but out of courtesy.”

“But for whom weepest thou,” quoth he, “and makest such heavy lament? Certes, were I as rich a man as thou, the whole world should not make me weep.”

“Ha! Know ye me?” saith Aucassin.

“Yea, I know well that ye be Aucassin, the son of the Count, and if ye tell me for why ye weep, then will I tell you what I make here.”

“Certes,” quoth Aucassin, “I will tell you right gladly. Hither came I this morning to hunt in this forest; and with me a white hound, the fairest in the world; him have I lost, and for him I weep.”

“By the Almighty to honesty,” quoth he, “are ye weeping for a stinking hound? Foul fall him that holds thee high henceforth! For there is no such rich man in the land, but if thy father asked it of him, he would give thee ten, or fifteen, or twenty, and be the gladder for it. But I have cause to weep and make dole.”

“Wherefore so, brother?”

“Sir, I will tell thee. I was hireling to a rich villain, and drove his plough; four oxen had he. But three days since came on me great misadventure, whereby I lost the best of mine oxen, Roger, the best of my team. Him go I seeking, and have neither eaten nor drunken these three days, nor may I go to the town, lest they cast me into prison, seeing that I have not wherewithal to pay. Out of all the wealth of the world have I no more than ye see on my body. A poor mother bare me, that had no more but one wretched bed; this have they taken from under her, and she lies in the very straw. This ails me more than mine own case, for wealth comes and goes; if now I have lost, another tide will I gain, and will pay for mine ox whenas I may; never for that will I weep. But you weep for a stinking hound. Foul fall whoso thinks well of thee!”

“Certes thou art a good comforter, brother, blessed be thou! And of what price was thine ox?”

“Sir, they ask me twenty sols for him, whereof I cannot abate one doit.”

“Nay, then,” quoth Aucassin, “take these twenty sols I have in my purse, and pay for thine ox.”

“Sir,” saith he, “gramercy. And the Almighty give thee to find that thou seekest.”

So they parted each from other, and Aucassin rode on: the night was fair and still, and so long he went that he came to the lodge of boughs, that Nicolette had builded and woven within and without, over and under, with flowers, and it was the fairest lodge that might be seen. When Aucassin was ware of it, he stopped suddenly, and the light of the moon fell therein.

“The Almighty!” quoth Aucassin, “Here was Nicolette, my sweet lady, and this lodge builded she with her fair hands. For the sweetness of it, and for love of her, will I alight, and rest here this night long.”

He drew forth his foot from the stirrup to alight, and the steed was great and tall. He dreamed so much on Nicolette his right sweet lady that he slipped on a stone, and drove his shoulder out of his place. Then knew

he that he was hurt sore, natheless he bore him with what force he might, and fastened with the other hand the mare's son to a tree. Then turned he on his side, and crept backwise into the lodge of boughs. And he looked through a gap in the lodge and saw the stars in the heavens, and one that was brighter than the rest; so began he to say. Will of it tell up the ways.

Sowing of seeds

Eve was in a field on the outskirts of a village, and she was happily helping with the sowing of seeds. Now, come the time in the mid morning to take some rest, she gladly went and sat with the others in a shaded place, for the sowing of seeds wasn't an easy task. And one from among those there who was sitting about spoke to Eve, saying,

"Eve when I hear you speak, I cannot understand you though seemingly all about here can well understand you. When I look at what you do, I cannot comprehend your way though I have heard so many can. Somehow, my heart has become hardened to hearing good words and seeing good ways. Because of this inner condition, I find I cannot easily turn to you; I cannot easily let myself be made wholesome by the Almighty."

And Eve with a soft smile told the following parable to all, saying,

"A sower went out of a morning to plant some seeds. And with scattering them some happened to fall on a nearby path, and the birds of the air came and quickly ate them up. Other seeds fell on shallow soil with underlying rock. The seeds sprouted, but because the soil was so shallow the young plants soon wilted under the hot sun, and they became no more. Other seeds fell among thorns which prevented the tender plants from coming to any growth. Still other seeds fell on fertile soil, and they produced a crop that was even a hundred times as much as had been planted."

And with looking one to another all clearly understood what she was saying within their experience and understanding of sowing seeds. And so they didn't feel the need to say anything. However, the one who had said, that his heart somehow had become hardened, was the first to recognise that there was surely more to this parable than merely talking about a sower sowing seeds, and their growth. And thus he spoke to Eve, saying,

"Eve, please unwrap some of its deeper meanings for us."

And she being well pleased with his request answered, saying,

"The seed that fell on the path represents those who hear the triple message of the Almighty, but being indifferent to it let it be snatched away from their hearts. The seed on the rocky soil represents those who hear the triple message and immediately receive it with joy and promises. But

since they don't have deep roots, it doesn't last long in them. They fall away as soon as they encounter the slightest of problems. The seed that fell among the thorns represents those who hear the triple message, but they allow it to be crowded out by the distractions and allurements of this life, and so it never reaches to producing fruit in them. The seed that fell on good soil represents those who truly hear and understand the triple message of the Almighty; its crucial significance for humanity's ongoing journey of Almighty-discovery, and as such produce a harvest even a hundred times as much as had been planted.”

And in the telling and explanation of the parable was the man's heart softened. And Eve, he, and all did happily return to the field to sow some more seeds.

Evening star

Evening star of, sings Eve:

“Star, that I from far behold,
Star, the Moon calls to her fold,
Nicolette with thee doth dwell,
My sweet love with locks of gold,
The Almighty would have her dwell afar,
Dwell with him for evening star,
Would to the Almighty, whate'er befell,
Would that with her I might dwell.
I would embrace her close and strait,
Nay, were I of much estate,
Some king's son desirable,
Worthy she to be my mate,
Me to kiss and embrace me well,
Lady love, sweet friend!”

Knowledge tree

Once of a day, and with reclining by a lovely stream, a woman there among the women there, put this question to Eve; be it a reflection, saying.

“How should I live my life? My regular way though it’s not of the common flow is I feel being subtly influenced by it, and in ways too that may not always be for the best in the long run.”

And Eve did give her this reply; be it a reflection, saying,

“Contented of heart will you be with rejecting the advice of those who would want you to go with the common flow; contented of heart will you be with not following the example of the narrow-minded or join those who have no use for the Almighty. Instead, find your joy you will in harmonizing your life into the way of the Almighty, and not letting yourself be distracted from it by day be it by night. You may then liken yourself to a knowledge tree that grows beside a stream, such as this one, and that blossoms at the right time, and whose fruit will be truly sumptuous. Being of this goodness way, your intentions, words, and actions will be of the noblest kind. And its prosperity will become a prosperity unto you.”

And the woman, and the other women there were all well pleased with this reply; be it a reflection that came to Eve quite naturally while she reclining there next to them and the lovely meandering stream.

Not far away

Was not far away of, tells Eve:

When Nicolette heard Aucassin, right so came she unto him, for she was not far away. She passed within the lodge, and threw her arms about his neck, and embraced and kissed him.

“Fair sweet friend, welcome be thou.”

“And thou, fair sweet love, be thou welcome.”

So either kissed and embraced the other, and fair joy was them between.

“Ha! Sweet love,” quoth Aucassin, “but now was I sore hurt, and my shoulder wried, but I take no force of it, nor have no hurt therefrom since I have thee.”

Right so felt she his shoulder and found it was wried from its place. And she so wondrously soothed it with her healing hands, and wrought it so neath her gentle kneading finger tips, that by the Almighty’s will, who loveth lovers, it softly slid back into its own place. Then took she flowers, and fresh grass, and leaves green, and bound these herbs on the hurt with a strip of her smock, and he was all healed.

“Aucassin,” saith she, “fair sweet love, take counsel what thou wilt do. If thy father let search this forest to-morrow, and men find me here, they will slay me, come to thee what will.”

“Certes, fair sweet love, therefore should I sorrow heavily, but an if an I may, never shall they take thee.”

Anon gat he on his horse, and his lady before him, kissing and embracing her, and so rode they at adventure.

Right to live

Eve as she was so often accustomed to doing, would spend the entire night on her own in a lonely place. With gazing at the heavens she would enjoy listening in her heart to the Almighty.

And now, it being long into a certain night, and she with falling into a deep sleep, a most troublesome; a most frightening and distressing dream had presented itself to her; a dream the likes of which she had never ever dreamt. And while dreaming this horrendous dream she couldn't make out whether she was in the present, the past or the future. And this is that dreadful dream that came to her.

I am somewhere, but I can't say as to where, but for all the world I feel myself to be on an island. I am walking along through this very densely canopied forest, but now I am finding myself emerging from out of the mouth of this very dark cave. And with coming out into a clearing, I am seeing out in front of me a long bowed line of people stretching and twisting its way on out over the countryside and into the distant hills. And I am wondering what the reason for it might be. And with approaching the line, I am noticing that they are all women; all young women for the most part, and all appearing to be of various social standing. And they seemed to be excited as many of them are joking, giggling, and laughing.

And as I am going along this line, I am every few steps enquiring of the women why they are here. And over and over again I am getting the same and similar answers, 'To have the child in my womb executed.' 'To get rid of it.' 'To get on with my life.' And I am asking if they are there of their own free will or had been coerced into coming. And the majority are answering me with, 'No, I am here of my own free will.' 'It's my right to have my baby slaughtered or not.' 'I am pressurised to be here.' 'This is my fourth time here.' 'I am here because it's the natural thing to do, and as such the right thing to do. And besides, everyone is into 'it slaughtering' these days.' 'Execution is free, and has no strings attached.' And I am thinking it is really strange, for while the majority of the women aren't noticeably pregnant, many are, and some are certainly if not four, to five, to six, even to seven months into the life journey of their babies.

And I am now making my way to the head of the line. I am shocked and appalled at what I am finding here! This is ... a place of ... public execution. I am feeling ... very upset, and tears are ... cascading down my face. I am hovering above the ... abominable place! And what ... I am beholding there below ... is ... the ... brutal ... taking ... of ... life ... from ... the ... living; the ... taking ... of ... life ... from ... the ... innocents ... of ... the ... womb! And there are so many spectators!

And I am all confused and anxiously looking about to see where are the fathers of the babies: the boyfriends, partners, husbands, fathers, brothers, uncles, relatives or even the forceful strangers. Executioners; murderers in absentia are they I am thinking. Why aren't they here; they have to be here, I am saying to myself.

I am opening my mouth, and shouting down to everyone there in that gruesome spot, and to the women waiting in line: 'In the sight of the Almighty this is unquestionably wrong; emphatically wrong it is in the sight of humanity! 'Respect the sanctity of life? 'Respect the right to live; respect your babies right to live? ... But my words don't seem to be reaching their ears. The whole lot of them seem to be deaf, blind, and indifferent.

And now, and by a gracious wind of the heavens, am I being swept up higher and higher and away away from out of that monstrous place; away away from the presence of those life carrying women; those child carrying women, and away away from that isle of seeming lamentable ignorance.

The dream had so upset Eve that with awaking she was vomiting most terribly. And with the eventual coming of the new dawn, she found herself to be of a renewed fragrance, serenity, courage, and joy. And as she went she rejoiced in song and dance the goodness of the Almighty.

Gentle waterfall

Eve was strolling on her own in the mountains, when she heard the welcoming sounds of a gentle waterfall. The afternoon being quite warm, she decided to go and enjoy its refreshing waters. And with letting herself be clothed with the naturalness of the surrounding, she did enter into the clear waters.

And, with the velvety waters gently falling on her head and shoulders, and she happily reflecting on the pure love of the Almighty, she noticed out of her eye three men approaching; three strangers. But she knew them by their distinctive garb to be teachers of the three bodies of religious Laws.

And with a total disrespect for even their very own Laws, and Eve's privacy, they came and sat themselves down on some rocks next to her clothes. And without reminding each other that they shouldn't be doing such things, they in silence lustfully pleased themselves with looking at her there in the clear waterfall pool. Eve, however paid them no attention whatsoever, but instead continued on with enjoying the caressing of the waters, and reflecting upon the Almighty's pure love.

Then, not being able to contain their silence any longer, one from among them inquired of her, saying,

“Ya, what is your name?”

“I am Eve.”

And the one and the same snapped back at her, saying,

“Eve? Named after the Mother of All Temptresses!”

And condescendingly he continued, saying,

“Know you not a daughter of the Great Temptress, that the Almighty of our Fathers caused the first man to fall into a deep sleep? And that while he slept, the Almighty took out one of the man's ribs; possibly it had been a chunk of his flesh, from his side and fashioned from it a lifeform? And that the Almighty lovingly woke the man, and showed to him what he had fashioned for him? And that the man said to the Almighty, ‘This lifeform is for me, and of me, and as such I will call it ‘of man’ for it came from man, and is as such subject to man.’? And that the Almighty of our Fathers did not question the wisdom of the man's word? And that the man well understood it to mean that the Almighty

was well pleased with his ruling on this matter? Know you not all these things, huh?"

And, Eve with slowly raising her arms up out of the waters and soothingly running her fingers back through her long black hair, answered him saying, "Be with such an illusion."

And building on the direction and the anger of the first, a second said to her,

"Ofman, know that the Almighty created Adam and then Eve, and not the other way round. Know your proper place in the order of things!"

And Eve with rising in the waters, and with gentle movements of her hands drawing ripples towards and about her curvaceous hills, answered him saying, "Be with such an illusion."

And the third building on the direction and the anger of the first and the second, said to her,

"By some means; yes, by some means the Almighty created you ofman from we men! Written it is that it was so, and so in our Laws it is so, for so it is to stand so for all eternity so!"

And Eve with entering shallower waters, and with gentle movements of her hands drawing ripples towards her undulating valley, answered him saying, "Be with such an illusion."

And, being fully clothed in her native beauty, Eve did now stroll out of the waters towards them that were sat there on the rocks. And they did cover their eyes from looking at her, for her beauty up close was too much for them to endure. And with slowly clothing herself she did then leave from out of their presence, and went upon her pure way without leaving them with another word, save the fragrant utterances of her graceful and dignified strolling.

To what land

To what land of, sings Eve:

Aucassin the frank, the fair,
Aucassin of the yellow hair,
Gentle knight, and true lover,
From the forest doth he fare,
Holds his love before him there,
Kissing cheek, and chin, and eyes,
But she spake in sober wise,
“Aucassin, true love and fair,
To what land do we repair?”
Sweet my love, I take no care,
Thou art with me everywhere!
So they pass the woods and downs,
Pass the villages and towns,
Hills and dales and open land,
Came at dawn to the sea sand,
Lighted down upon the strand,
Beside the sea.

Truths of the heart

Eve was sitting about a fragrant campfire by night, when words came to her for those who were with listening ears sitting there about.

And these are some of the words that she spoke unto them, saying,

“Some days ago, it already now being almost a fortnight, when I first came to you, I didn’t use lofty words and impressive wisdom to tell you of the things of my heart. For I decided that while I was with you I would forget everything except love. I came to you in gentleness, and politeness. And my words were plain. Rather than using clever and persuasive outpourings, I relied only on the power of the Almighty working through me. I did this so you would trust not in human wisdom but in the power of the Almighty. I speak to you with words of wisdom, but not the kind of wisdom that belongs to this world or to the sovereigns of this world, who are soon forgotten. No, the wisdom I speak of is the love of the Almighty. But the sovereigns of this world do not understand it. The wisdom that I speak of, no eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has yet imagined. No one can know a person’s thoughts except that person themselves, and no one can know the Almighty’s thoughts except the Almighty.

When I tell you these things, I do not use words that come from human wisdom. Instead, I speak words given to me by my heart; using the words of my heart to explain truths of the heart. But people who aren’t openhearted can’t receive these truths. It all sounds foolish to them and they can’t understand it. Only those who are openhearted can understand the truths of the heart.”

And, there was a long silence from those sitting there about with reflectively gazing at the lovely warm crackling fire neath the starry heavens.

Along the seashore

Along the seashore, tells Eve:

Aucassin lighted down and his love, as ye have heard sing. He held his horse by the bridle, and his lady by the hands; so went they along the seashore, and on the sea they saw a ship, and he called unto the sailors, and they came to him. Then held he such speech with them, that he and his lady were brought aboard that ship, and when they were on the high sea, behold a mighty wind and tyrannous arose, marvellous and great, and drove them from land to land, till they came unto a strange country, and won the haven of the castle of Torelore. Then asked they what this land might be, and men told them that it was the country of the King of Torelore. Then he asked what manner of man was he, and was there war afoot, and men said,

“Yea, and mighty!”

Therewith took he farewell of the merchants, and they commended him to the Almighty. Anon Aucassin mounted his horse, with his sword girt, and his lady before him, and rode at adventure till he was come to the castle. Then asked he where the King was, and they said that he was in childbed.

“Then where is his wife?”

And they told him she was with the host, and had led with her all the force of that country.

Now, when Aucassin heard that saying, he made great marvel, and came into the castle, and lighted down, he and his lady, and his lady held his horse. Right so went he up into the castle, with his sword girt, and fared hither and thither till he came to the chamber where the King was lying.

Blue skied archway

Eve, sitting in a blue skied archway was speaking with a small group of people, when a middle-aged man from among them put this question to her, saying,

“How should I dispose of my elderly parents?”

“Dispose?”

“Well more like, have them not be such a burden on me. I am a very busy man, and I have no time to be visiting them or taking any care of them. I thought of taking them away out into an isolated place, and leaving them there without water and food to be no more, but I haven’t had the time to get around to doing that either.”

And Eve, asked,

“Are you married?”

“I was married six times, and I will probably ring the present one too, and keep her until I get fed up of her, like I did with the others. Thanks be to the Almighty, I say, for the divorce escape route. I am a very; in fact I would say, I am an extremely busy man, and don’t have time for elderly parents or long-term wives.”

And Eve, asked,

“Do you have children?”

“Would have nothing to do with them. They appear to be a bigger burden than even parents and wives put together. Nearly everything in life is obstructing me from making a greater success of my business. Admittedly, I have more money than I can ever possibly spend in my lifetime, and more houses than I can ever possibly get around to living in. Yet, I feel to be righteous before the Almighty, I need to work even harder. While I view work to be a sure means to the Heaven, these other things; these other annoying things, like, elderly broken parents, and makeupless wives are making it very difficult for me to live a righteous life. What good word, if any, can you give to me?”

“Wake up; you are living a self-induced nightmare.”

“No, no, it is no nightmare I can assure you. This is my everyday waking life which I greatly enjoy, save for those irritating things that I have just mentioned.”

And, Eve fashioned this story for his hearing, saying,

“Now, there was once a woman who had been badly mistreated by her husband. And after he divorcing her she fell into favour with the ruler of that land. And of an evening, when the ruler was in an exceptionally good mood, he requested this particular woman to dance before he and his other guests, for he had been told that she greatly excelled in the art of dancing.

And the woman said to the ruler, ‘I will be honoured to dance before you if you will but grant me one almost quite insignificant request.’

And the ruler answered her in front of all, saying,

‘Ask, whatever you so to will, and your request will be granted to you upon entertaining me and my guests here with your dancing skills.’

And so it was, that she danced so wonderfully she caused all there including the ruler to swoon in amazement. And the ruler being greatly pleased, and willing to show to his guests how honourable he was, enquired now of the woman what she wanted in return for having danced.

And she replied, saying, ‘Send some from among your charge to go and make it so, that my former husband be with having his head in the company of his ankles; clearly viewable to his right eye as well as to his left.’

And those who having received such a command from the ruler did straightaway go and seek out that badly behaving man, and made it exactly so as had been requested of them.”

And with hearing Eve’s story, and comprehending its message to be clearly for him, the man cascaded tears. He did come to vividly realise that his way of thinking, and as such his way of life, had become totally warped out of shape.

And with getting himself together, he said to Eve,

“In the full sight of the Almighty, will I go and beg forgiveness of my dearly beloved parents, and with them will I live night and day; personally taking care of their every need, however difficult they and their needs may be. And to my former wives, I will go and ask forgiveness, and from my wealth will I to them be generous upon generous. And to the present woman, whom I am living with, I will also ask forgiveness, and see if she will want to have anything more to do with me; if she would like to have a family with me. And as of this day, will I no longer pursue my ignoble business.”

And Eve went and embraced him, and said,

“Greatly beloved of the Almighty, from this moment forth be with the strength to do what you have announced here to yourself, and to all of us to do: be in the love of the Almighty.”

And the man in exceeding joy did quickly leave for the house of his beloved parents.

Courteous

The courteous of, sings Eve:

Aucassin the courteous knight
To the chamber went forthright,
To the bed with linen dight
Even where the King was laid.
There he stood by him and said:
“Fool, what mak’st thou here abed?”
Quoth the King: “I am brought to bed
Of a fair son, and anon
When my month is over and gone,
And my healing fairly done,
To the Minster will I fare
And will do my churching there,
As my father did repair.
Then will sally forth to war,
Then will drive my foes afar
From my countrie!”

Beauty and goodness

Of a lovely late afternoon is was, and as Eve was sauntering along on camelback towards a village in the distance, an elderly man on horseback galloped up next to her. He requested that Eve share some words with him on meaning.

And with continuing in sauntering mode, Eve respectfully, and obligingly in this way did begin with saying,

“Everything is meaningful; completely meaningful in itself.”

But no sooner had she these words spoken, than the man asked,

“Tell me then, what do people get for all their hard work under the sun or be it in stone or tented caves? What do they get for all their beliefs? Generations come and generations go, but the above about below never changes. The sun rises and the sun sets, and then rushes around to rise again. The wind blows south, and then turns north; around and around it goes, blowing in circles. Rivers run into the sea, but the sea is never full. Then the water returns again to the rivers and flows out again to the sea. Truly everything is wearisome to me, beyond description.”

And with a smile, Eve replied,

“I’ve worked hard under the sun, and within caves of stone and tent did I mediate and write night and day, and through it all have I come to know and appreciate the privilege of being able to work; of being able to write. My beliefs are personal while my expression of them is for all who have listening ears. Generations come and generations go with graciously leaving the above about below all anew for us to make it so. The sun rises and takes its time crossing the sky before contentedly setting. And come the new dawn it contentedly rises to travel a whole new journey. Never is a day the same; never a journey the same. The wind playfully blows where it wills, and admirably at its own pace. Rivers are welcomed into the sea naturally, and amazingly the sea never brims over due to this filling. And the mists of the waters ascend to become clouds; clouds that are floated along by the wind to bring us refreshing rains. Truly, everything is wondrous to me, beyond description.”

And the man continued, and rather begrudgingly, he did say,

“So that may be, but no matter how much I’ve seen, and do see, I’m never satisfied. No matter how much I’ve ever heard, and hear, I’m never content.”

And with a smile, Eve replied,

“No matter how much I see of the beauty of the Almighty, I’m always grateful, and ever satisfied. No matter how much I hear of the goodness of the Almighty, I’m always and everywhere content.”

And for the village did they in reflective silence continue sauntering on away contentedly in each other’s company.

Henceforth for ever

Henceforth for ever of, tells Eve:

When Aucassin heard the King speak on this wise, he took swift hold of the coverlets, blankets and sheets that covered him, and threw them all abroad about the chamber. Then saw he behind him a furnishing, and caught it into his hand, and turned, and took to the King, and threatened to beat him with it, till he would be all but well-nigh on dead.

“Ha! Fair sir,” quoth the King, “what would you with me? Art thou beside thyself, that would beatest me in mine own house?”

“By the Almighty to goodness bless,” quoth Aucassin, “thou ill son of an ill wench, I will slay thee surely if thou swear not that never shall any man in all thy land lie in of child henceforth for ever.”

So he did that oath.

“Sir,” said Aucassin, “bring me now where thy wife is with the host.”

“Sir, with good will; with good will,” quoth the King.

He mounted his horse, and Aucassin gat on his own, and Nicolette abode in the Queen’s chamber.

Anon rode Aucassin and the King even till they came to that place where the Queen was, and lo! Men were warring with baked apples, and with eggs, and with fresh cheeses, and Aucassin began to look on them, and made great marvel.

Being the word

Eve was sitting in the shade of a tree; reflecting she was on being the word as much as speaking it, when a very forlorn looking dog approached with his head and tail drooped and they almost touching the ground. And he pitifully and quietly was whining away to himself.

And with softly rubbing his head, the dog spoke unto the heart of Eve, saying,

“The one whom I greatly love has been taken away from me, and I don’t know where they have put him. I miss him so much that I can’t eat, and can’t even bring a drop of water to the tip of my tongue.”

And with giving him some water soaked bread from out of the palm of her hand, and she with greatly feeling his pain, said to him,

“Show me to where you last saw him.”

And the dog in slow walking, for he was weak of hunger, and heavy of heart, did lead the way till they had reached to the place where he had last seen him whom he greatly loved. And the people there told Eve that the man had suddenly died, and that they had buried him in the mountains.

And Eve said to them who were of the same heart broken fullness as the dog,

“Lead me into the mountains, and show me where you buried him who is much beloved of you all, for I must be with seeing him.”

But they answered her, saying,

“He is in the ground already nine days.”

And Eve answered,

“Lead me to where you have laid him.”

And they lead Eve to the place in the mountains where they had laid him. And Eve had carried the dog in her arms all the way there, for on his own he would not have been able to make it. And with reaching the place of burial, Eve did gently let down the ever so weak; the ever so heart breaking dog near to the grave. And he began to cry out such sorrowful whinings that all who were there, including Eve could not keep themselves from shedding mountains of tears.

And, Eve with embracing the power of the Almighty did call to the

ground to be with removing itself. And the ground indented to the level where they had laid the body of the man. And she did call to the man to be with coming again unto life; and to be with freeing himself from death. And at her word, he who had been nine days dead, was now alive, and made wholesome. And in fragrance of body did he rise from out of that place.

And with the man and the dog both matching each other's eyes, and with hearing each other's voices, they where about each other as always and everywhere they had ever been. And in the excitement the dog was restored to wholesomeness and fragrance. All who were there at seeing these wonders did go and warmly embrace he who was greatly beloved of them. And they and the man did give thanks to the Almighty; did give thanks to Eve.

And Eve did leave from their happy presence. And being with gratitude to the Almighty, she did joyfully take to strolling in that lovely place. And with strolling she heard the dog brightly barking and running after her. And with great contentment in his eyes, and with his head held high, and healthily wagging his tail, he did speak much gratitude unto the heart of Eve. And with rubbing his head and looking into his lovely eyes, she let him be with returning to the one whom he greatly loved.

Laugh and smile

Laugh and smile of, sings Eve:

Aucassin his horse doth stay,
From the saddle watched the fray,
All the stour and fierce array;
Right fresh cheeses carried they,
Apples baked, and mushrooms grey,
Whoso splasheth most the ford
He is master called and lord.

Aucassin doth gaze awhile,
Then began to laugh and smile
And made game.

Older carrying the younger

Eve was coming through an eastern gate of a troubled city when a woman; a mother came running up to her, and she was beside herself with sorrow. With a face full of tears she cried to Eve, saying,

“The Heaven in Your Words, you’ve got to help me. You’ve got to help me, please. You’re my last hope.”

And with sitting her down, Eve asked, “How may I be of help to you, dear one?”

“They have taken away my child; they have taken away my last child. My husband and I have been left orphans. They have taken away the last of our children.”

And Eve asked, “Who has taken away your child; who has taken away your children?”

“Occupation soldiers; occupation soldiers male and female they came and took my last child while she was sleeping upon my bosom.”

“Show me where they have taken them.”

And the woman with taking hold of Eve’s hand led her through alleyways of poverty and destruction. And after some time, and having passed through the squalor and the stench of that place, she brought her to the brow of a hill, and there with pointing across the valley she said, “They are keeping them there; they are keeping my children there caged up like animals.”

There, before their eyes, and across the valley was an enclosure having lookout posts with soldiers in them. And Eve asked her who was with flowing tears and sorrowful groaning, “What is that place?”

And in a hoarse voice she replied, “It’s a stockade; a cage where they are keeping our babies.”

And with collapsing herself to the ground, she did tell to Eve of how over the previous few months; soldiers male and female had come and deprived she and her husband of all their seven children; their seven children ranging in age from eleven to one and a half. And, how of a late afternoon, when her husband had bravely tried to prevent them from snatching their third youngest as she was saying her daily goodbyes to her friend the sun, they had beaten him up, leaving him for half dead. And, how, now they were without their children; no child to hold to her bosom

or none to kiss their father on the cheek.

And Eve asked, "Why; why did they take your family?"

And she answered with saying, "My eldest; my son had looked through a crack in our door as some soldiers had been passing in the alleyway, my next a daughter had been playing hide and seek with her friends in ruins, my next a daughter was humming a melody of her own composition by moonlight, my next a son was scenting a flower along the way, my next a daughter was found lovingly waving at the setting sun and softly blowing kisses to it, my next a son was thought to have been dreaming of a bright future. And only a few days ago, they came and took my youngest daughter while she was sleeping upon my bosom."

And with hearing the remainder of her most pitiful story, Eve kissed her on the forehead with assuring her that she would return all her children to her, and to her many neighbours. And with taking her leave of her, she descended the hill.

With approaching the heavily guarded enclosure, she shouted to the gate, saying, "Be opened!" And immediately the gate became wide opened. And with going and standing in the gateway, she called out to all the children therein, saying, "Come, lovelies of the Almighty; come follow me, for I am with bringing you back to your mammies and daddies!"

The soldiers there about and in the lookout posts had their hands firmly clasping their sword handles, but they were given not to be able to withdrawn them from their scabbard nor could they take a step towards her.

And there did follow Eve out of that deplorable place, hundreds of children; the oldest being no more than fifteen, and the youngest one and half. The older ones were carrying the younger ones.

And, Eve with her eyes brimming over with painful tears did lead them back to their parents; did lead the seven back to the woman and her husband who had been deprived of their entire family.

And, she did leave that troubled city by a different gate, and went into a lonely place where she spent the night crying over the terrible ways of some of our humankind.

High of lineage

High of lineage of, tells Eve:

When Aucassin beheld these marvels, he came to the King, and said, “Sir, be these thine enemies?”

“Yea, Sir,” quoth the King.

“And will ye that I should avenge you of them?”

“Yea,” quoth he, “with all my heart.”

Then Aucassin put hand to sword, and hurled among them, and began to weave it in the air above them to the right hand and the left, and thus causing them to take to scattering for the hills. And when the King saw this, he caught at his bridle and said,

“Ha! Fair sir, scatter them not in such wise.”

“How,” quoth Aucassin, “will ye not that I should avenge you of them?”

“Sir,” quoth the King, “overmuch already hast thou avenged me with thine hurling and weaving. It is nowise our custom to scatter each other to the beyond hills there, and away from out of each other’s sight.” And anon stayed they the scattered within distant view.

Then the King and Aucassin returned to the castle of Torelore, and the folk of that land counselled the King to put Aucassin forth, and keep Nicolette for his son’s wife, for that she seemed a lady high of lineage. And Nicolette heard them, and had no joy of it, so began to say. Will of it tell up the ways.

Triple wonder

Eve was sitting by shimmering lake waters, and was with happily reflecting on the triple wonder that is the Holy Torah, the Holy Bible, and the Holy Qur'an.

And as she was doing so, she was with noticing a man coming along the shore towards her. In his right hand he was carrying a cross that was taller by far than himself, and in his left he was leading three camels on a frayed rope. On their backs were great loads of some kind, which were reaching surely to twice the height of the camels themselves. And the loads appeared to be way too heavy for them to bear.

And with coming closer, she noticed that the bearded man was wearing thorny headgear which was all to one side, and his off beige robe was trailing along the ground with its hem in tatters. And she could see the loads on the half starved camels to be books of some sort.

And with approaching, the frown-knotted, bleary-eyed man spoke to Eve, saying, "You; you are 'am', aren't you; 'am' of the Desert?"

"Yes, I am."

"I; I have come to save you."

"Save?"

"Oh, yes; yes save you, for I have heard how you have been keeping much company with pagans; yes, those Jewish, Christian, and Muslim infidels. Thus, anxiously I have come to preach to you that you may be of the one true religion of Trouble; a Son of the God of the Gods. I firmly believe in the Adam and his helper, whose name shall not be spoken forth from my mouth, and how they; in particular the she his helper, shamefully sinned against the God of the Gods, and how Trouble came and lived fully at liberty for all our sins, including yours, and that he is now sitting at the right hand side of the God of the Gods his Father interceding for us. I believe in the Trinity of the God of the Gods that be the Father, that be the Sons, and that be the Holy Ghost.

Yes, and; and yes I believe that the end of days is coming upon us, and that Trouble is coming back again, that is if he is not already here, to live fully at liberty among us, and that he will reform all peoples of the world unto himself, and unto the Trinity.

And; and I know from having been told of your words and actions,

that you are definitely in need of being saved. As such I want you to become a member of my religion: The Troubled so that you will be saved like me, and therefore will most certainly be entering the Heaven along with the other chosen few, where we can enjoy forever the somber of the God of the Gods the Father, and of the Sons, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Having; having thus perfectly proclaimed this the one true message of salvation to you, I now want to give you some manuals and pamphlets to read which will greatly help you on the road to complete salvation; complete, true, and utter salvation by way of the one true religion, namely, The Troubled."

Eve, having by now heard quite enough of this kind of nonsense; this kind of drivel, gracefully rose to her feet, and without uttering a word went and stood on the lake waters. Then, she turned, and raised both her hands towards the man on the shore, and said in a raised voice to the troublesome that had taken possession of him, "Be out from this goodly man!"

And with the man now free of the troublesome, and being made anew in heart, countenance, and attire, he quickly relieved the camels of their burdens, and let them free to be upon their own way, while he himself joyfully, and with great gratitude to the Almighty, and to Eve, took to strolling and chatting with her on the shimmering waters of the lake.

Love doth me embrace

Love doth me embrace of, sings Eve:

Thus she spake the bright of brow:

“Lord of Torelore and king,
Thy folk deem me a light thing,
When my love doth me embrace,
Fair he finds me, in good case,
Then am I in such derray,
Neither harp, nor lyre, nor lay,
Dance nor game, nor rebeck play
Were so sweet.”

As a blessing

Eve entered a town, and made her way through to the marketplace. There was a Muslim man there named Muhammad. He was a goodly and honest man who by his faith and diligent effort had become quite rich. He tried to get nearer to Eve, but he couldn't because of the crowd. So he went up ahead and waited for Eve to near. When she came by, she fragrantly looked to his eyes, and said to him,

“Muhammad, I must be a guest in your home this eve.”

Now, a number of Christians and Jews who had been there in the crowd, and who with seeing and hearing this were somewhat displeased with Eve, and spoke among themselves, yet loud enough that she may also be with hearing their words, saying,

“She’s going to be the guest of a Muslim,” they grumbled, “Why; why isn’t she coming to be a guest in our homes?”

Meanwhile, Muhammad stood before Eve, and in the hearing of all thereabout, including the Christians, and Jews, said,

“I will give one third of my wealth to these Christians as a blessing; one third to these Jews as a blessing, and the remaining one third, I will give as a blessing to whosoever, and to the strangers I happen to meet along the way in my travels. For so great is my joy, Eve that you should come to my home, and there in goodness of heart to dine with me, my family, and my household. And, if it pleases you my beloved neighbours; you too are warmly invited to come sit at my table, and eat of the bountifulness of my spread.”

And, Eve responded with saying,

“Muhammad, the love of the Almighty is with you.”

And those besides Eve who went and dined in Muhammad’s home numbered ninety-nine, among whom were those same Christians and Jews who earlier had somehow temporarily let themselves be given over to small mindedness; given over to grumbling about the Almighty’s way.

Rose there a mighty wind

Rose there a mighty wind of, tells Eve:

Aucassin dwelt in the castle of Torelore, in great ease and great delight, for that he had with him Nicolette his sweet love, whom he loved so well.

Now, while he was in such pleasure and such delight, came a troop of Saracens by sea, and laid siege to the castle and took it by main strength. Anon took they the substance that was therein and carried off the men and maidens captives. They seized Nicolette and Aucassin, and bound Aucassin hand and foot, and cast him into one ship, and Nicolette into another.

Then rose there a mighty wind over sea, and scattered the ships. Now that ship wherein was Aucassin, went wandering on the sea, till it came to founder at the castle of Biaucaire, and the folk of the country ran together to the wreck, and there found they Aucassin, and they knew him again. So when they of Biaucaire saw their damoiseau, they made great joy of him, for Aucassin had dwelt full three years in the castle of Torelore, and his father and mother were dead. So the people took him to the castle of Biaucaire, and there were they all his men. And he held the land in peace.

Since the break of day

Since the break of day, Eve had been sitting by the seashore in the company of nine very bright elderly imams.

Throughout the day they had spoken to her on the Holy Qur'an while she had listened with the greatest of interest to everything they said. She had not spoken all day; only she had listened. And she had listened in a way that made the imams feel great delight to be with telling her more and more of the wonders that is, and of, the Holy Qur'an.

It was now nearing sunset, and the eldest from among the nine spoke to Eve, saying,

"I am by Allah of the lineage of our Holy Prophet Muhammad, Peace Be Upon Him. And come the next Ramadhan, I will by the mercy of Allah be one hundred and seventy-seven years of age. From the womb have I loved Al-Qur'an Al-Kareem. For while my blessed mother was with carrying me she was always happily reading passages from it. Oft she later would tell me it to have been so. There hasn't been a moment in my life when I haven't been thinking about some word or phrase from the Holy Book. And as such, I have been always and everywhere very much at ease. Yet, while I say that, there have been times when I on my own, that an old problem comes back to me. When I was but seven, I one day happened to be reciting the following verse from the Al-Qur'an Al-Kareem:

[Allah it is who has bestowed upon thee from on high this Holy Qur'an, containing messages that are clear in and by themselves - and these are the essence of the Holy Qur'an - as well as others that are allegorical. Now those whose hearts are given to swerving from the truth go after that part of the Holy Qur'an which has been expressed in allegory, seeking out [what is bound to create] confusion, and seeking [to arrive at] its final meaning [in an arbitrary manner]; but none save Allah knows its final meaning; its interpretation/explanation. Hence, those who are deeply rooted in knowledge say: "We believe in it; the whole [of the Holy Qur'an] is from our Sustainer - albeit none takes this to heart save those who are endowed with insight."]

{Al-Imran (The Family of Imran, The House of Imran) 3:7}

It dumbfounded me for I knew then as I know now that I could

never hope to fully appreciate such a profound word. Only this would be known to Allah, and never to me. In later years, whenever I would come upon this verse, I would go silent and move on to the next verse. In that way have I been living my life.”

And Eve with hearing his words, said, “All of you have been merely trying to comprehend the ocean from the shoreline. And your ‘Allahu Akbar?’ is the declaration of those whose feet are firmly established on the security of the shore. The Holy Qur'an is like unto an ocean; it can't be comprehended merely from standing on the shore. What all of you have spoken to me this day of is nothing more than your understanding of the ocean from the safety and ease of the shore.

My humble understanding of that verse is that it remains only known to Allah until you come out to meet Him and make yourselves known to Him. In other words, if you want to understand what that verse truly means; what the Holy Qur'an profoundly means, then you have got to sail out into the deeper ocean. Up to now, you have been laying your prayer mats (sajajid) on solid ground. This is the sure world of the shoreline and the inland. Leave your mats there, and sail out into the deep, for there will be no need for them there as prayer mats do not lend themselves to being laid out on the wavy waters.”

And as Eve was with saying these words, the muezzin's mellifluous call for prayer from the nearby masjid was heard. Eight of the nine rose to heed the call; to respectfully take their leave of Eve. The one who had spoken earlier remained sitting there on the shore gazing out to sea. And after a little while, when the call for prayer was no longer to be heard, he spoke to Eve, saying,

“Will you help me push my boat there on to the waters, that I may be with journeying out into the deep?”

“Of course.”

And Eve with gracefully rising to her feet went and helped him push his boat on to the welcoming waters.

And, she stood there on the shore and watched as he hoisted the lovely yellow sail on his pretty white boat. And he then with contentedly sitting in the stern began waving back to her, and she in turn waving out to him. And with seeing him journeying thus, she felt the greatest of happiness for him.

In joy and ease

In joy and ease of, sings Eve:

Lo ye, Aucassin hath gone
To Biaucaire that is his own,
Dwelleteth there in joy and ease
And the kingdom is at peace.
Swears he by the Majesty
Of the Almighty Most High,
Rather would he they should die
All his kin and parentry,
So that Nicolette were nigh.
“Ah sweet love, and fair of brow,
I know not where to seek thee now,
The Almighty made never that countrie,
Not by land, and not by sea,
Where I would not search for thee,
If that might be!”

Makes the seed grow

Of a day, a spokeswoman for a small group of women called Eve aside, and requested that she come and talk to them in an orange orchard outside the village.

And having finished talking to a group of men, she accompanied her to the orchard. With reaching that lovely place, Eve noticed a group of women numbering about fifty. Among them were Jews, Christians, and Muslims.

And she spoke to them, saying, "When I first met some of you, I couldn't talk to you as I would to spiritual people. I had to talk as though you belonged to this world. I had to feed you with ordinary ideas, because you weren't ready for anything stronger. And you still aren't ready, for you are still controlled by your desires. You're suspicious, and jealous of one another, and quarrel with each other. Doesn't that prove you are controlled by your desires? Aren't you living like people of the world? When one of you says, 'I am a Jew,' another, 'I am a Christian,' and another still, 'I am a Muslim' aren't you acting just like people of the world?

After all, what is a Jew, what is a Christian, what is a Muslim? Who is Moses, who is Jesus, who is Muhammad? We are only the Almighty's blessings; seeds, and fragrant flowers of the Almighty. It's not important who does the planting, or who does the watering. What's important is that the Almighty makes the seed grow. Stop deceiving yourselves. If you think you are wise by this world's standards, you need to let yourself become innocent of heart to be truly wise. For the wisdom of this world is not the Almighty's. If you follow the wisdom of the world, you will only end up trapping yourself, and those about you in your own cleverness. The Almighty knows the hearts of those who would be with calling themselves wise. So don't boast about following a particular human leader; a particular belief system. For everything belongs to you whether you say you are for Moses, for Jesus or for Muhammad.

Everything belongs to you for you are a blessing of the Almighty. Oh, rejoice always in the Almighty, for the Almighty knows you, and loves you. The Almighty is the Almighty, and almighty does wondrous things in your day-nightly life. The Almighty's love is from dawn to dusk, and from dusk to dawn. The Almighty is doing tremendous things in your life; venting pride and haughtiness from your heart, and is exalting your

humility.

Wake up, wake up! Clothe yourself with strength. Put on your beautiful clothes of living faith. Rise from the dust of mediocrity. Sit your heart in the place of honour. Remove the twistings of doubt from your mind, for the love of the Almighty is with you.

How beautiful in the orchards is the fragrant tidings of serenity, love, and beauty. Sing with joy, for behold before your very eyes, and in your ears are fragrant tidings been spoken.”

And, within the blessings of their words and smiles, Eve did depart from out of their presence through the sweet scenting trees.

High parentry

High parentry of, tells Eve:

Now leave we Aucassin, and speak we of Nicolette.

The ship wherein she was cast pertained to the King of Carthage, and he was her father, and she had twelve brothers, all princes or kings. When they beheld Nicolette, how fair she was, they did her great worship, and made much joy of her, and many times asked her who she was, for surely seemed she a lady of noble line and high parentry. But she might not tell them of her lineage, for she was but a child when men stole her away.

So sailed they till they won the City of Carthage, and when Nicolette saw the walls of the castle, and the countryside, she knew that there had she been nourished and thence stolen away, being but a child. Yet was she not so young a child but that well she knew she had been daughter of the King of Carthage; and of her nurture in that city.

For the very first time

Eve of a morn entered a small town which had three streets branching off like a fleur-de-lis. At the end of one stood a Jewish synagogue, the next a Christian church, and at the end of the third a Muslim masjid.

And as she stood at the junction of the three, the entire inhabitants of the town came unto her. And with seeing them; seeing their walking style, and then the emptiness in their eyes she had compassion on them, for they seemed miserable, and lost.

And one from among them spoke to her, saying,

“Stranger, we are so hungry for food for our stomachs, and wholesome words for our hearts. Know you where we may acquire them?”

And Eve answered, saying, “Let us all be with sitting down.”

And in a moment, she had given to manifest food and water before each person; enough food and water for each and everyone there to eat and drink. And she did also enjoy partaking of the bountiful blessing of which they willing shared with her, for she had been feeling hungry and thirsty with journeying.

And with the crowd; the crowd numbering a thousand or more having begun to eat, she spoke unto their next moments; their afternoon and night, and unto their morrow, and the days and the nights following. Unto their future, she spoke saying,

“You are truly blessed for you will be with healthily walking in the fragrant guidance of the Almighty. In the fragrant guidance of the Almighty, will you be happily seeking ways to be living synagogues, churches, and masjids unto each other. Uplifting each other you will be as such; doing no wrong unto yourself, unto your neighbour or unto the wandering stranger. And, in the light of the Almighty, will you be with knowing yourselves and each other anew.”

And all who were there were well satisfied in heart and stomach. And for the very first time did they know each other to be fellow inhabitants of the one and the same town.

Good and true

Good and true of, sings Eve:

Nicolette the good and true
To the land hath come anew,
Sees the palaces and walls,
And the houses and the halls!
Then she spake and said, “Alas!
That of birth so great I was,
Cousin of the Amiral
And the very child of him
Carthage counts King of Paynim,
Wild folk hold me here withal;
Nay Aucassin, love of thee
Gentle knight, and true, and free,
Burns and wastes the heart of me.
Ah the Almighty grant it please,
That by Thy bountiful grace,
Will we again hold in warm embrace;
That he kiss me on the face,
He my love and lord!”

Loving masterpiece

Late in a day, Eve was with strolling along the seashore, when she happened to notice two people sitting apart from each other on a promontory, and they were gazing out to sea at the sunset. And, with a flock of seabirds passing between them and the sun, they noticed her coming along the shore. One of them called down to her, and then both beckoned for her to come up to them.

Having ascended, and with nearing them, both of whom were elderly men, Eve could know from the set frowns in their brows that one was a Sunni Muslim, and the other a Shia Muslim. And they invited her to sit before them, with having her back to the setting sun. And one of them said to her,

“All our life, Stranger; day it be night, night it be day have we diligently prayed all our prayers that have been prescribed for us; completed all fastings, and have on several occasions been on pilgrimages to our shared and respective holy places. We read of the same Holy Qur'an, yet we haven't been able to stop finding fault with each other; stop fighting each other.”

And the other said, “Stranger, oh, some awful things have we done to each other down through the years.”

And the other continued, saying, “Yes, and yet, for all our day-nightly praying we're still hearts apart from each other. As you see we even sit apart. The only reason you would find us sitting here is because this is the most ideal spot for miles around with which to capture the best view of the sunset. We barely greet each other as we come, as we sit here we hardly talk, and as we go our separate ways we merely verbally wish each other peace. What's the answer to it, Stranger, for we both claim to be the very best kind of Muslim, and the other not necessarily the best?”

And the other requested of Eve saying, “Have you any word for us miserable ones, for obviously we're not being true to the teachings of the Holy Qur'an as our hearts are becoming further and further apart from each other? We can't seem to get over the atrocities committed in the name of power by our ancestors and their descendants on each other.”

And the other said, “The terrible memories burn in our hearts with a raging passion that's forever rekindling itself. We can't forget nor are we able to forgive, and as such we can't move on to a new level of Islam. Have you any good word for us, Stranger of the Shore?”

And Eve did make reply, saying,

“Day-nightly do I look into my heart, and know so much, yet so little about myself. I know when I’m reclining or when I’m strolling. I know my thoughts as they arise within me. I see myself when I travel, and when I rest. I know everything I do. I know what I am going to say even before I say it. I go beside myself, before myself, and follow after myself. I know myself to be a blessing unto myself. Such knowledge is at times too wonderful for me to fathom; too great for me to understand.

I can never escape from my heart. I can never get away from my own presence. If I go down into the valley, I am still with myself; if I climb up into the high mountains, there too do I find myself to be still with myself. If I caravan in the desert, if I boat on the waters, even there my own hand will still be guiding me, and my strength supporting me. I could ask the darkness of the night, and the light of the day to hide me from myself, but no difference whatsoever would it make, for I would still be finding myself to be with myself.

The Almighty fashioned me; fashioned me most exquisitely in my mother’s womb. Great and wondrous am I; a loving masterpiece of the Almighty I am. How can I not live in love?”

And with being moved somewhere within the floating sounds and subtle meanings of her words, the once upon a time Sunni Muslim looked over at the once upon a time Shia Muslim, and at the very same time was the once upon a time Shia Muslim taken to looking over at the once upon a time Sunni Muslim. Years of animosity immediately left from out of their hearts as if it had never been there in the first place. And from that very moment they knew each other no longer to be Sunni and Shia, but simply and rightly to be Muslim brothers; living Holy Qur’ans.

And, with they enjoying being with finding themselves to be believers anew, Eve moved unbeknownst from out of their presence, and was with descending and strolling along the pristine dusking shore.

Fair sweet love

Fair sweet love of, tells Eve:

When the King of Carthage heard Nicolette speak in this wise, he cast his arms about her.

“Fair sweet love,” saith he, “tell me who thou art, and be not adread of me.”

“Sir,” said she, “I am daughter to the King of Carthage, and was taken, being then a little child, it is now fifteen years gone.”

When all they of the court heard her speak thus, they knew well that she spake sooth: so made they great joy of her, and led her to the castle in great honour, as the King’s daughter. And they would have given her to her lord a King of Paynim, but she had no mind to marry.

There dwelt she three days or four. And she considered by what means she might seek for Aucassin. Then she got her a viol, and learned to play on it, till they would have married her on a day to a great King of Paynim, and she stole forth by night, and came to the sea-port, and dwelt with a poor woman thereby.

Then took she a certain herb, and therewith smeared her head and her face, till she was all brown and stained. And she let make coat, and mantle, and smock, and hose, and attired herself as if she had been a harper. So took she the viol and went to a mariner, and so wrought on him that he took her aboard his vessel. Then hoisted they sail, and fared on the high seas even till they came to the land of Provence. And Nicolette went forth and took the viol, and went playing through all that country, even till she came to the castle of Biaucaire, where Aucassin was in stay there.

Moral landscape

And Eve of a dawn with coming over the brow of a hill, beheld in the distance; beheld in a vision of that place in a distant time, the construction of a mighty stone like wall which seemed to stretch for miles and miles into the beyond.

And with nearing, she was amazed at the depth of its foundation, the expanse of its width, and the soaring of its height. Surely, its foundation extended down for some one hundred yards, its width out for surely three times as much, and its height reached into the sky for surely a thousand yards or more. All along its battlement were towers, and standing atop each tower was a mighty seven-branched golden candelabra.

And Eve did go and make enquiries of the army general overseeing the work; asking of him the reason for the construction of such a wall. And with pride and excitement in his voice he answered her, saying,

“We are fortressing in the Promised Land of our forefathers. This land there within in days of ancient old was promised to our forefathers, and we in our own day and way are bringing that promise to its logical conclusion, which amounts to the inclusion of those who are at one with us in our faith, and the exclusion of all those who aren’t. If you can prove, and declare yourself to be at one with us in our faith, you may enter there within to live and worship with the greatest of ease. If you cannot, well; well you are not allowed enter.”

And Eve asked, “What of all the Christians and Muslims that used to live in this region, and what too of their sacred places of worship?”

“They have all been escorted out from the land. And all of their sacred buildings are no longer to be seen throughout the land.”

“Was their going of their own choosing?”

“Let’s say, the choice was made for them to accept that they had no other choice but to vacate their homes, abandon their fields, orchards, and groves, and to depart the land.”

“What of their Masjid al-Aqsa, and their Church of the Holy Sepulchre?”

“Not a single stone of either of them remain within the walls of this Holy Land. In their place, and upon the completion of this wall will begin the construction of a mighty temple that will be on a scale hitherto not

seen upon that sacred mound. No, this land is our land; promised and given to our forefathers in days of ancient old, and in continuity of that same promise today to we their descendants, and in turning time to our descendants will it be for ever and ever promised and given; by the Almighty of our forefathers is this meant to be so.”

And Eve, with hearing this word, let her gaze fall upon that insult both to the Almighty, and to humanity; the monstrosity of a fortress wall. And in a moment its height, its width, and its depth became no more. In its place there did instantly appear lush fragrant olive and date palm groves and orange orchards stretching for miles and miles. And throughout the land not a single synagogue was given to remain standing.

Now, with seeing this awesome happening, all who were there, and all within that once enclosed region, cascaded tears of great joy, for the compassion of the Almighty had given them to clearly see, that the land; yes, that the only land which the sacred scriptures were referring to was the land of their own hearts: the moral landscape.

And they did in great dust clouds rush out into the isolated barrenness to where they had banished the Christians and the Muslims. And they with great sincerity of heart did ask of them there who were all but heartbroken, for their complete forgiveness. And the Almighty made it so that it was gladly given unto them.

And together they all as one people, in the acceptance of the love of the Almighty, and in the loving sight of the Almighty, did return to live in harmony with each other in that gardenlike land of milk, dates, olives, and honey; a place of plenty for all that they may be with joyfully living in the Love of All Love; in the love of the Almighty.

And, in their happy journeying back, and by the grace of the Almighty, were they all: Jews, Christians, and Muslims brought to the daylight of a more wondrous way of looking at the Almighty; a more wondrous way of looking at themselves, and the worlds about and beyond them.

And in time of time, and upon that sacred mound; it being sacred to them all three, did they with joy and gratitude collectively construct a magnificent three-petal shaped building ♣ where each confession of faith could worship separately yet as one. And about that land, and in the villages, towns, and cities did they likewise with joy and gratitude collectively construct such buildings of various sizes; buildings well reflecting their oneness to the sight of the Almighty.

Way of thinking

It was late in the afternoon, and the group of families that had come out from a town into a valley to listen to Eve were feeling a little hungry. And one from among them said to her,

“In this all but desert like place; in this oasis of one lone date palm tree, where can we be with finding something to eat, for we haven’t eaten in a while?”

Just then a little girl came forward, and she said to the one who had been speaking,

“I found here a single delicious looking date beneath the beautiful tree, and I would like you to have it that you may ease your hunger.”

And the person being quite surprised did give answer, saying,

“Thank you, little one. But you have it yourself for we would need many dates to feed all who are present here about.”

Then, Eve said to the little girl, “Lovely, will you do something for me?”

“Yes, I will.”

“Thank you. I need you to go round to each person, and with doing so, to ask them to place there hands together like so, and therein for you to place the date. Okay?”

“Okay.”

And, the little girl happily went about beginning with the person who had inquired of where they might find something to eat, and placed the date in the hands of each person. And with placing it, another nine delicious dates would instantly appear next to it. And she continued to do this with all seventy-two people who were there. And with that she returned to Eve, and with the loveliest of smiles, said, “I have done as you have requested, and now I will place it in your hands. Okay?”

“Okay.”

And with doing so, nine more delicious dates instantly appeared next to it. And with taking it, Eve placed it in the little girl’s hands, and the same thing happened.

All who were there had their immediate hunger removed from them.

Now, when the people with coming to realise that something extraordinary had taken place, they exclaimed one to another,

“Surely, she is the One whom we have been hearing about?”

When with these words having made their way to Eve, she slipped away from out of their presence, and went deeper into the countryside by herself. And as she went, she thought, that what is of the ordinary is quite extraordinary, and the extraordinary wonderfully ordinary. But who can understand this way of thinking she thought save those who let the Almighty be the provider for them of all that which is wholesome.

And it was now predusk, and wonder filling her thoughts was a lovely waxing moon in the east, and it all in the company of one softly glowing double halo shaped craft and one gently pulsating diamond one that had come in from afar to look see this world from on high; three planets, a number of brightening stars, and in the far away, though not yet visible to her sight, knew she there to be the white smoke puff like worlds and they all ever so slowly drifting about as if as seeds upon a fragrant breeze.

Fragrant breeze

Soft fragrant breeze blowing through the trees, and Eve is sitting by a shimmering stream having these beautiful words to the Almighty upon her lips, saying,

“I trust in You with all my heart; not depending on my own understandings. In all ways are You giving me to know, and to acknowledge Your delightful presence. For Your purposes alone on pathways of goodness am I being directed.”

And, thus as she was contentedly soliloquising away to the Almighty, there did come along on the opposite bank of the stream a kingly man, and he did courteously address her saying,

“May I be with sitting here in your presence awhile?”

And they did sit there in each other’s presence on either side of the stream with just gazing into the flowing waters and without feeling the need to be with coming into speaking.

And with the gentle swaying of the branches overhead, the kingly man spoke, saying,

“I have three religions forever floating themselves about in my mind. My mother is a Jew, my father a Christian, and I am a Muslim. How can I best harmonise these three religions: first in my mind, and then in my day-nightly life? It is not that they are competing with each other in my mind, but rather that it is becoming increasingly more difficult for me to work with them. I feel I should choose one over the other or one over the other two. But what goodly son can be disrespectful of his dear mother, and of his beloved father?”

And Eve in a lovely smile, said,

“These three are not three but one. Merely they are three perspectives on the same marvellous message.”

“But, I have been reared, and cultured to believe that while they have in essence many similarities, these three, namely Judaism, Christianity, and Islam are three different religions.”

And Eve with taking three pieces of wood did lay them on the ground one by one next to each other. And then with a twig she drew a rectangle about them, and said,

“This represents a book which is divided up into three parts.

Part I - inspired words of Prophet Messenger Musa,

Part II - inspired words of Prophet Messenger Isa,

Part III - inspired words of Prophet Messenger Muhammad.

A single book with an overarching message. And the overarching message of this singularly marvellous book is - that the Almighty is with us and delights in taking the very best of care of us. It is a clear guidance for us on how to live our lives in the goodness of the Almighty.

Yet, I would have you to know it is not the supreme guidance. Look there, there, and there about, below, and above us. This is the Almighty's supreme guidance; this is the Great Apposite Book of Revelation of which we are also. And with the help of this precious three-fold one here, we can learn how to read it, and how to come to a deeper and more profound appreciation of it, ourselves, and the Almighty.

And, also I would have you to know that besides this precious three-fold book are others in other lands that are fashioned from different beliefs which though different are all meant to be clear guidances on how to read the Great Apposite Book of Revelation, and on how to come to a deeper and more profound appreciation of it, ourselves, and the Almighty."

And, although the kingly man was at a loss as to know what the latter words might mean with respect to other books in other lands, he did in the living movement, moments, lilts, cadences, and timbres of Eve's words and voice, quite spontaneously let himself to be with joyfully reaching a level of clarity and harmony hitherto unknown to him.

Looking with peace

With strolling, and coming over a ridge of a dawn, Eve beheld a splendid valley running from north to south; from south to north. Both to the north, and to the south were thriving communities. However, what presented itself to her eyes in the midway of the valley was anarchy. All dwellings were either levelled or on fire. People were insanely running around with swords and sticks, and with piercing roars were mercilessly taking the life from each other. On either side of the fighting were piled bodies higher than the treetops. Waves of men and women, young and old from either side were butchering the other.

Not being able to stand it any longer, she descended into the valley, and into the midst of the carnage. And with seeing her walking into their midst with neither a sword, stick nor rock to hand, they all became terrified, and without having made a choice to do so, found themselves bringing their swords, and sticks down out of the air to their sides. And when with silence having descended, she asked them, saying,

“Who or what are you?”

And one from the southern side answered her, saying, “I’m a Christian. And I’m proud of it!”

And one from the northern side answered her, saying, “I’m a Muslim. And I’m proud of it!”

And with hearing their answers, Eve began to turn with the intention of walking away back the way she had come, when someone ran up the ways after her, and said, “Why are you leaving at hearing the answer ‘I’m a Christian. And I’m proud of it?’”

And someone else also having run up the ways, asked in the same vane, saying, “Why are you leaving at hearing the answer ‘I’m a Muslim. And I’m proud of it?’”

With receiving these questions, she turned and sat there on the side of the valley. And they in the below having nothing better to do, came up one after the other and sat down about her on the slope, until everyone was seated.

And she spoke to them, saying,

“To be a Christian; to be a Muslim is to see with your intent; to see with your heart; to see with your eyes the Christian and the Muslim in

each other, and respect it. And what is it to see the Muslim and the Christian in each other, and to respect it, but to be with looking and being to each other with peace, love, and well being.”

And with such new words finding a warm welcome in their ears, all who were there, beginning with the men to the women, and to the youths male and female, did suddenly find themselves to be with sobbing ever so deeply. And with leaving their swords and sticks there on the ground, they rose to their feet, and began to ask forgiveness of the Almighty, of each other, and of themselves.

Later, and from the vantage of the ridge, Eve could see that the fires were being quenched, and that the dead were being prepared for respectful burials.

Christians and Muslims from the thriving communities to the north and to the south with hearing the good tidings that peace was steadfastly established in the mid way, came joyfully running with an abundance of water and food.

And with the setting of the sun, and as a single family having respect and love for each member, a great meal of gratitude to the Almighty, and to each other was celebrated on the valley side where Eve had spoken to them.

Sweet influence

Sweet influence of, sings Eve:

At Biaucaire below the tower
Sat Aucassin, on an hour,
Heard the bird, and watched the flower,
With his barons him beside,
Then came on him in that tide,
The sweet influence of love
And the memory thereof;
Thought of Nicolette the fair,
And the dainty face of her
He had loved so many years,
Then was he in dule and tears!
Even then came Nicolette
On the stair a foot she set,
And she drew the viol bow
Through the strings and chanted so;
“Listen, lords and knights, to me,
Lords of high or low degree,
To my story list will ye
All of Aucassin and her
That was Nicolette the fair?
And their love was long to tell
Deep woods through he sought her well,
Paynims took them on a day
In Torelore and bound they lay.
Of Aucassin nought know we,
But fair Nicolette the free

Now in Carthage doth she dwell,
There her father loves her well,
Who is king of that countrie.
Fatherly king wanting he for her
A young prince to come around,
Her a husband hath he found,
But ne'er with him the maid will go,
For she loves a damoiseau,
Aucassin, that ye may know,
Swears to the Almighty
That never mo
With a lover will she go
Save with him she loveth so
In long desire."

Noble ways

Eve was strolling along on a way when she began to hear sounds coming from the up ahead; sounds of drums, and the shouting of people in unison with the drumbeats. And she did stop and listen to this approaching sound.

In no time there reached her a band of men and women, and they were armed from head to toe with spears, swords, and knives. And there was in their drumbeats and shouting the rhythms of a pending battle.

And Eve with not fearing them stayed right where she was; stood waiting for them to approach. And with approaching, and still loudly beating their drums they came to a halt right before her. And one from among them; she being their leader, angrily addressed her, saying,

“Ya! Move aside or be slain aside.”

And Eve calmly replied saying,

“Rather you make my way clear, for my way you are blocking.”

And the leader shouted for someone to slay Eve. But none from among them felt confident enough to do so; neither man nor woman.

And Eve asked, saying, “Why are all of you dressed like that?”

And the leader answered, “We are on our way to conquer a people.”

“By whose authority?”

“By the authority of the Almighty. From the dawn of human history the right to conquer is a given right of the Almighty for those who are willing to avail of it. Over the beyond hills in the way distance there, is a peaceful wealthy country whose people we feel are very much in need of being conquered; their dwellings set to flames, and they themselves either slain, raped or be lead away in ropes. Now, step aside or be slain aside!”

And Eve stood her ground. And for the second time no one from among them had the confidence to raise a sword against her.

“Look! Whoever you are, don’t you know the secular history of our human kind? Know you not that it is one of slay slay, maim maim, and mutilate away; the same yesterday, the same today, the same tomorrow, and the same for ever more will be that way?”

“What you have spoken of is a history of choices; choices to destroy.”

“Then, ignorant one, don’t you also not know from religious history how Eve she conquered Adam, Sarah and Hagar Abraham, Magdalena Jesus, and Khadijah Muhammad? You mean to say you don’t know this? Whether it be secular or religious history, the Almighty we know, and that our foreparents and ancestors the same knew, made us to conquer, and conquer now we will in that great tradition. So for the last time, step aside or you will be slain aside. And if no one from among my band of conquerors here will have the courage to do it, then I myself will gladly do it.”

And for the third time no one from among them raised a sword, a spear or a knife to harm her; not even the leader could for some unknown reason bring herself to do any harm whatsoever to Eve. And those who had been drumming stopped their drumming, and all who were there began to drop their swords, spears, knives, and drums to the ground.

And Eve requesting them to be seated spoke unto them, saying,

“The Almighty does not conquer, and as such neither are we meant to be conquerors. The Almighty is harmony, and living in harmony are we meant to be.

Adam learned to live in harmony with Eve, Abraham with Sarah and Hagar, Jesus with Magdalena, and Muhammad with Khadijah.

Be of the noble ways. And to be of the noble ways is to be of the Almighty. Learn to live in peace and cooperation with your neighbours near and far. We are blessings to be blessings.

How good, and so wondrously pleasant filling it is for neighbours and neighbours of neighbours; for sovereignties and sovereignties of sovereignties to be dwelling in the unity of respect, love, and admiration for each other.”

And with discarding their spears, swords, knives, and drums into the wayside, they did happily take to strolling a long ways in the blessed company of Eve, before returning to their homes to live in the fullness of well being.

Sorrow no more

Sorrow no more of, tells Eve:

When Aucassin heard Nicolette speak in this wise, he was right joyful, and drew her on one side, and spoke, saying:

“Sweet fair friend, know ye nothing of this Nicolette, of whom ye have thus sung?”

“Yea, Sir, I know her for the noblest creature, and the most gentle, and the best that ever was born on ground. She is daughter to the King of Carthage that took her there where Aucassin was taken, and brought her into the city of Carthage, till he knew that verily she was his own daughter, whereon he made right great mirth. Anon wished he out of his fatherly love to give her for her lord one of the greatest kings of all Spain, but she would rather let herself be sent out of life, than take any lord, how great soever.”

“Ha! Fair sweet friend,” quoth the Count Aucassin, “if thou wilt go into that land again, and bid her come and speak to me, I will give thee of my substance, more than thou wouldst dare to ask or take. And know ye, that for the sake of her, I have no will to take a wife, howsoever high her lineage. So wait I for her, and never will I have a wife, but her only. And if I knew where to find her, no need would I have to seek her.”

“Sir,” quoth she, “if ye promise me that, I will go in quest of her for your sake, and for hers, that I love much.”

So he sware to her, and anon let give her twenty livres, and she departed from him, and he wept for the sweetness of Nicolette. And when she saw him weeping, she said:

“Sir, distress not thyself so much withal. For in a little while shall I have brought her into this city, and ye shall see her.”

When Aucassin heard that, he was right glad thereof. And she departed from him, and went into the city to the house of the Captain’s wife, for the Captain her father in the Almighty had passed away. So she dwelt there, and told all her tale; and the Captain’s wife knew her, and knew well that she was Nicolette that she herself had nourished. Then she let wash and bathe her, and there rested she eight full days. Then took she an herb that was named Eyebright and anointed herself therewith, and was as fair as ever she had been all the days of her life. Then she clothed herself in rich robes of silk whereof the lady had great store, and then sat

herself in the chamber on a silken coverlet, and called the lady and bade her go and bring Aucassin her love, and she did even so. And when she came to the palace she found Aucassin weeping, and making lament for Nicolette his love, for that she delayed so long. And the lady spake unto him and said:

“Aucassin, sorrow no more, but come thou on with me, and I will shew thee the thing in the world that thou lovest best; even Nicolette thy dear love, who from far lands hath come to seek of thee.” And Aucassin was right glad.

Wonderfully comfortable

Eve with approaching a walled city in the near distance, heard a man's voice sorrowfully calling to her from a cluster of trees, be it an entanglement of shrubs and briars, saying,

"Eve! Eve of the Desert come see me; come, come, come see me, please, please, please ..."

And with searching for the source of that pitiful voice, Eve happened upon a man in the entanglement who was entrapped by a very rare disease; from the scalp of his head to the soles of his feet covered he was in most painful looking tumours. And the smell emitting from them was absolutely putrid. And with beholding the stricken man, Eve in a smiling countenance, said,

"My beloved phrase 'feeling wonderfully comfortable and marvellously fragrant' go forth now from my mouth and bring yourself to the fullness of your truth in this man. Accomplish in him that which I am greatly pleased for you to accomplish. You shall prosper in this man whereto I am sending you. Now, beloved, in my blessing go forth to him."

And this, a beloved phrase of Eve's joyfully travelled forth from out of her mouth, and with reaching the man of great pain caused his body to be with feeling wonderfully comfortable and marvellously fragrant; completely freeing him of his terrible infirmity. And with having accomplished that which it had been sent to accomplish, the beloved phrase did return rejoicing to the bosom of Eve.

And the man; a stunningly handsome man did come forth from out of that entanglement and embraced Eve, and was with great gratitude of heart for the power of the living word of the Almighty. And Eve having acquired some clothing for him nearby, they did stroll along together in joyful chat as they came and were with entering through the city gate.

And with entering the city, Eve returned the man to his family. And there was great delight in that household; a delight that spread throughout the entire city. And there came many to see Eve, and to listen to her words. For every word she spoke, and every phrase she uttered they brought themselves to the fullness of their truth in those who were in most need of them.

There were words and phrases of Eve which joyfully went forth and

brought the deaf into hearing, the blind into seeing, and the paralysed into walking; words and phrases which caused those of a depression to come into joyfulness, those weighted down by painful memories to come into an attitude of newdayness and blessedness, and those of granite like hearts to come into suppleness and compassion for all.

And they all gave thanks for the living words and phrases of the Almighty which had been given to come forth to them from the mouth of Eve.

Sky of many hues

As she was strolling along, Eve from time to time was casting her delightful gaze to the lovely late afternoon sky of many hues. And with passing beneath a mightily branched tree, she happened standing upon her pathway, an extraordinarily handsome Friesian horse; a velvety heavens of night black horse, and he all attired in splendid fleur-de-lis harnessing and trappings. His black mane was wondrously waving and rippling in a gentle breeze. His great tail was all but sweeping the ground. And Eve thought to herself, how unusual it was to see such a magnificent animal all attired and standing out in the middle of nowhere, and without his rider too.

And with approaching the horse, she noticed over to her right a man all fully attired in equally splendid fleur-de-lis patterns. And straightaway, she recognised him to be a Christian knight; a member of the Knights Templar.

He was standing with his back to her, his arms outstretched, and with the palms raised and opened like flower petals. And he, with his head of long auburn hair slightly thrown back, was with looking up at an apparition of a most beautiful woman in a grove of trees.

Like the faithful horse, Eve respectfully stood there in stillness and silence with gently stroking the horse's countenance. And she could see that the beautiful woman was smiling down to the knight.

And he was with saying up to her,

“Gracious Magdalena how I love you; how I love you so, yet my heart it is so, is so, is so so very very heavy, so it is. On the way to this land, I and my sworn in allegiance to His Holiness in Rome brothers, did slaughter Jews and Muslims in their hundreds if not in their thousands. And having reached and captured the Holy City for the Holy Christian Church have we slaughtered so many Muslims and Jews; so many Muslim and Jewish men, women and children have we slaughtered, and even fellow Christians did we slaughter. I am not worthy to have my life. Oh, that I would never have been born; never in the first place to have accepted that perverted call to arms; never have left my homeland, my beloved wife and our precious children; left my castle and estate. O foolish man of humanity have I been.”

And in a little while the apparition of the beautiful woman evanesced, and became no longer visible. And with lowering his arms he

fell to his knees, and was with sobbing ever so pitifully unto himself.

And Eve with approaching from behind gently laid her right hand upon his left shoulder. And with leaving some moments pass, she did come about and did knee directly facing him on the ground. And with taking his right hand she did gently kiss the callused palm, and did place it upon her bosom. And with the doing of so, his tears stopped their pouring forth. And with loving eyes he looked at her and spoke, saying,

“How has it come to be that I have been blessed by two apparitions on the same afternoon?”

And Eve answered him saying, “I am no apparition, for as you I too have seen the beautiful woman in the trees there.”

An apparition unto Eve was he not aware of himself to be.

And Eve asked him, saying, “How come you have returned to these parts?”

And with puzzlement he did reply, saying, “Returned? How do mean returned? I have never left; I haven’t been home yet. Seven years ago: anno domini nostri Jesu Christi 1096, did I depart from my estate in my native land.”

And Eve with hearing his word didn’t have the heart to tell him that he was no longer of this world. And she spoke to him, saying,

“Your long painful sojourning is over. You are going home now; going home to your beloved wife, and your precious children; going home to your native land, to your castle and estate, for the compassion of the Almighty which is great, and beyond all human understanding is making it so for you to be.”

And at that very moment, the beautiful velvety heavens of night black horse, came and lovingly laid his head on the knight’s right shoulder, for he had sensed it was time for them to be upon their way.

And so, with happily rising to his feet he discarded his sword and knightly attire. And with doing the same for his horse he courteously bade Eve adieu. And with having cantered some short distant, the grateful former knight gently drew up his mount to a halt, and with turning him about he did wave back to Eve, and she did wave to him. And he knew there and then that his heart by the grace of the Almighty had been made completely clean. And both he and his ever faithful horse evanesced from out of Eve’s sight just as the apparition of the beautiful woman of the trees had done earlier.

And, Eve with strolling on upon her way towards the first lights of a

nearby village, reflected on the two in one apparition, and on the words that had been spoken. And she reflected on the beyond all human understanding compassion of the Almighty.

And she wondered to herself how many other knights like the one she had just seen must still be wandering in worlds out of sight; wandering in the ruined fortresses, and in the winding pathways of that region. And she thought that most likely there must also surely be wandering in worlds out of sight, well-intentioned Muslim and Jewish warriors, who may have been duped into adhering to perverted and greedy calls to arms; individuals of noble character and upbringing fooled into becoming murderers in the name of the Almighty according to Moses, in the name of the Almighty according to Jesus, and in the name of the Almighty according to Muhammad. And they being caught up in the madness and fear of the moments found themselves committing atrocities that would bring shame even to the wolves of the forests and the lions of the hills, never mind to humanity itself. And she asked the Almighty to show to those individuals of noble character and upbringing the same compassion as that shown to the knight that she had in vision met.

And as she neared the village, her beautiful gazelle like eyes welled up with tears of joy, for she knew the Almighty sees the hearts of all and knows the hearts of all. And that when the Almighty shows a tremendous compassion for someone; someone whom the world might consider otherwise, it clearly means that the ways of the Almighty are not our ways; that the Almighty has found something there within their heart to be well deserving of great compassion.

Fragrant marketplace

Eve with sitting in a fragrant marketplace was enjoying talking to those who were gathered about to listen to her on the greatness of the Almighty, and of the joy of living in the presence of the Almighty when some Jewish, Christian, and Muslim teachers of religious Laws entered the scene with the intention of putting some pressing questions to her. And they began by asking her, saying,

“Why have you broken with our age-old religious Laws?”

Eve replied, saying, “You are right when you say ‘our’ age-old religious Laws, for they are the only laws you are familiar with and claim to practice. Yet, you know almost nothing of the ways of the Almighty. And know you even less that the ways of the Almighty lend not themselves to be contained within any such tight-fisted laws as the ones you advance.”

And one from among them asked, saying, “What ways; what ways of the Almighty do you speak of?”

And Eve with a lovely smile replied, saying, “Honour, care, and learn from your beloved parents; honour, care, and learn from your beloved mothers and fathers extending through the myriad generations way back into the past.”

And another one from among them asked, saying, “Know you not that our Laws speak highly of some people who are parents?”

And Eve replied, saying, “According to ‘your’ laws anyone who speaks disrespectfully of his or her father or mother must be put to death. And you also have ‘your’ laws say for you that it is quite all right for people to say to their parents, ‘Sorry, mother; sorry father but I can’t help you this morning. For I have vowed to give this bowl of fresh water to the Almighty. Maybe tomorrow.’ In this way, you say they don’t need to care or honour their parents. What in truth is this?”

And she continued. “Honestly, what know you of the ways of the Almighty? You cancel the word of the Almighty for the sake of your own crafty laws. You hypocrites! You honour the Almighty with your lips and your external signs but you have left your hearts become so far removed from the love and the knowledge of the Almighty, and of your fellow human beings, that it is an absolute disgrace.

See you to the birds of the air there. I tell you; greater is their awareness of the love of the Almighty for them and for their fellow

winged than you are.”

Then she spoke to the peoples of the marketplace gathered there about, saying, “Listen and try to understand. It is by considering the ways of the Almighty that we are able to live our minds almighty. To be solely considering the ways of our humankind would be to be with living our minds narrowly.”

And one from the crowd, who feeling a certain pride and anxious urge to defend the teachers of religious Laws, and their Laws, said,

“Ya, do you not realize you have greatly offended our dear Jewish, Christian, and Muslim teachers of religious Laws here, and their Laws, by what you have just said? Have you no fear of such learned men; no concern for your own safety?”

Eve replied, saying, “Who can’t be knowledgeable in the ways of the Almighty? Every plant; every tradition that is not planted by the Almighty will be uprooted. These here with their well-formulated laws are narrow guides seeking to lead even those narrower than themselves. Think almighty, and be almighty, for the ways of the Almighty cannot be contained within narrowness; within craftiness.”

And the teachers of religious Laws left from out of the presence of Eve, and they were in a state of frustration and temper.

And Eve resumed talking to the peoples gathered there about in the fragrant marketplace of the greatness of the Almighty, and of the joy of living in the presence of the Almighty. And all who were with listening ears were well pleased with her words.

Gladness and delight

In great gladness and delight of, sings Eve:

When Aucassin heareth now
That his lady bright of brow
Dwelleteth in his own countrie,
Never man was glad as he.
To her castle doth he hie
With the lady speedily,
Passeth to the chamber high,
Findeth Nicolette thereby.
Of her true love found again
Never maid was half so fain.
Straight she leaped upon her feet:
When his love he saw at last,
Arms about her did he cast,
Kissed her often, kissed her sweet
Kissed her brow and eyes and lips.
Thus all night do they devise,
Even till the morning white.
Then Aucassin wedded her,
Made her Lady of Biaucaire.
Many years abode they there,
Many years in shade or sun,
In great gladness and delight
Ne'er hath Aucassin regret
Nor his lady Nicolette.
Now my story all is well done;
Well sung, well told!

Pleasure and contentment

Eve had been invited to come talk to a group of women in the house of a well to do woman. Including the woman of the house, the number gathered there was twenty-five. And all of them were married women; some being married with twelve or more years, some five or more, and the remainder some two to three years. And there was no one there who wasn't married less than two years nor was there anyone from among them who hadn't one to three to five or more children.

And they were all anxious to hear what Eve had to say to them on how to live an even happier married life, for some from among them were experiencing difficulties of a kind, be it with raising their children, dealing with in-laws or just relating to their husband. But by far the most difficult problem, which nearly all of them had to contend with, was that of their own mind. And Eve was with a great understanding and compassion for them, for she herself as a married woman was experiencing them too.

Being constantly away from her husband and children who dwell deep in the Great Desert is at times very hard for her to bear. However, she is oft with a renewed strength whenever she remembers how the Almighty had fragranced her forth from her husband, their children, and kinsfolk; had lovingly fragranced her forth for a time from the heart of the Great Desert to be a fragrant presence of the Almighty in the surrounding worlds, and to give words of encouragement and harmony to all whom she would be given to meet. Strengthened she is by the assurance that the Almighty is in the meantime taking the very best of care of her husband, their children, and kinsfolk. For Eve, truly is one of those special few whose trust in the Almighty is awesomely fragrant.

There isn't a moment when she doesn't miss the smiling eyes of her dear children and their loving hands upon her countenance. A night doesn't go by when she doesn't long for the warm, strong, compassionate embrace of her beloved husband. But as her trust is placed completely in the Almighty is she admirably able to be what she is fragranced to be, and say what she is fragranced to say, be it in the countrysides, the villages, the towns, and the cities near and far.

And a woman from among those gathered there in the house spoke, saying, "Eve, I am very happily married, and I adore our children, but at times with the last few months something not experienced by me ever afore comes over me. It happens so quickly that it is already happening

before I know it is happening. Suddenly, and while I am cooking; usually cooking the evening meal, I find my mind being carried away to an imaginary man, and I feel he is standing right up behind me, and that in a few moments I am having an unbelievably passionate time with him. The thoughts of this so overtake me that I at times fall to the floor, and am helpless. Within a few minutes of emerging from this kind of thinking, I break into a flood of tears there on the floor as I feel that I have somehow been unfaithful to my beloved husband; have somehow betrayed our dear children, and even violated our religion.”

And another woman from among them finding her own courage to speak, said, “Eve, I am also very happily married, but at times I too find myself in a similar situation. However, my mind is not carried away to an imagery man, but no, to an imagery woman. In all my life I have never ever had such thoughts until just recently. It usually happens when I am with folding the laundry. I am overcome with feelings and images of this woman passionately touching me all over. And like our friend here, I too am left helpless, and feel I have somehow been unfaithful to my beloved husband, our dear children, and to our religion.”

And the woman of the house spoke, saying, “Eve, I have been very happily married now with thirty-seven years. It only seems like yesterday I was seventeen. I was married on my seventeenth birthday. I can proudly and thankfully say that they have been thirty-seven years of blessings in abundance. I feel I couldn’t ask for a better man in all senses, for he is man of great faith in the Almighty, a passionate and understanding lover, a most caring father, a son who greatly honours and loves his aged parents, and one considered to be highly trustable by all who know him. We have had seven healthy children, thanks be to the Almighty; three bright girls and four bright boys. And they are wonderful children in every sense; they love the Almighty, are with listening to our words, and are trustworthy among their friends. Day-nightly do we give thanks to the Almighty for them, and for each other.

But over the last few months, I have been visited by strange thoughts; unfamiliar thoughts to me that I never experienced afore. When I am with attending the trees in our orchard down over the way there, I suddenly find myself thinking of an imaginary younger man, and he being in his mid to late twenties who is of a fantastic physique, and whose eyes look right through me. He is so passionate with me that I can hardly remain standing with the thoughts which run through my head, and the imaginary feelings that run throughout my body like a heard of gazelles running through the hills and valleys. And like the other dears here who have spoken, I feel a desperate cloud of unhappiness come in over me; a

feeling that somehow I have been unfaithful to my beloved husband, and made myself unclean before my children, and our religion. And that weighing down feeling of guilt can last for days. I have now reached a stage where I am almost afraid to enter our orchard.”

And Eve having carefully listened to their words spoke, saying, “Friends, what you are feeling is not something unusual, abnormal or even wrong in itself. Those thoughts you have are as normal for us sensual human beings as any thoughts which traverse our minds. However, the problem is that you have let them take you over. You need to have a caretaker for your senses, in particular for your mind.

Now, the holy prophets of old; be they male or female are of no good to you whatsoever in this particular case. They cannot caretake for you. You need a caretaker to come forth from your deeper self; to come forth from your heart to constantly caretake, so that every time such thoughts begin to appear in the far off horizon of your mind, the caretaker will alert you that you now need to stop whatever you are doing, and to immediately remove yourself from out of that spot, and to do something else or to go see your dear children, your beloved husband or even your always-welcoming and understanding neighbours. For such thoughts can be frightened away very easily by your caretaker. Such thoughts are not persistent for they have no ability to take on your caretaker, and give up after awhile.

Ask the Almighty to strengthen your caretaker. And the Almighty who sees all, and knows all; even the hidden thoughts and feelings, will strengthen your caretaker; will strengthen you. Believe me, dear friends; I speak to you with confidence, for I know such to be a truth of my day-nightly experiences. And if I may be with saying to you all; be more passionate and more often so with your husband. Find your pleasure and contentment in his loving embrace. For the Almighty gave him to you to be your beloved for this precious nuptial relationship, and gave you both your children to be an expression of the unity of your love for each other.”

And Eve, and the women gathered there well spoke of many other things too. And when they had concluded, she left from out of their happy presence, and went away by herself into a lonely place to pray.

Now some days later, Eve was again invited back to that same house, only this time to come talk to the women’s husbands.

Including the man of the house, the number gathered there was twenty-five. And they were all anxious to hear what Eve had to say to them on how to live an even happier married life, for some from among

them were experiencing difficulties of a kind, be it with raising their children, dealing with in-laws or just relating to their wife. But by far the most difficult problem, which nearly all of them had to contend with, was that of their own mind. And Eve was with a great understanding and compassion for them.

And a man from among those gathered there in the house spoke, saying, “Eve, I am very happily married, and I adore our children, but at times with the last few months something not experienced by me ever afore comes over me. It happens so quickly that it is already happening before I know it is happening. Suddenly, and while I am working, I find my mind being carried away to an imaginary woman, and I feel she is standing right up in front me, and that in a few moments I am having an unbelievably passionate time with her. The thoughts of this so overtake me that I at times almost swoon and fall to the ground. Within a few minutes of emerging from this kind of thinking, I break into a flood of tears as I feel that I have somehow been unfaithful to my beloved wife; have somehow betrayed our dear children, and even violated our religion.”

And another man from among them finding his own courage to speak, said, “Eve, I am also very happily married, but at times I too find myself in a similar situation. However, my mind is not carried away to an imagery woman, but no, to an imagery man. In all my life I have never ever had such thoughts until just recently. It usually happens when I am starting to worry about our family’s future. I am overcome with feelings and images of this man passionately making advances towards me. And like our friend here, I too am left helpless, and feel I have somehow been unfaithful to my beloved wife, our dear children, and to our religion.”

And the man of the house spoke, saying, “Eve, I have been very happily married now with thirty-seven years. It only seems like yesterday I was twenty-two. I was married on my wife’s seventeenth birthday. I can proudly and thankfully say that they have been thirty-seven years of blessings in abundance. I feel I couldn’t ask for a better woman in all senses, for she is woman of great faith in the Almighty, a passionate and understanding lover, a most caring mother, a daughter who greatly honours and loves her aged parents, and one considered to be highly trustable by all who know her. We have had seven healthy children, thanks be to the Almighty; three bright girls and four bright boys. And they are wonderful children in every sense; they love the Almighty, are with listening to our words, and are trustworthy among their friends. Day-nightly do we give thanks to the Almighty for them, and for each other. But over the last few months, I have been visited by strange thoughts;

unfamiliar thoughts to me that I never experienced afore. When I am with attending the flowers in our garden down over the way there, I suddenly find myself thinking of an imaginary younger woman, and she being in her mid to late twenties who is of a fantastic physique, and whose eyes look right through me. She is so passionate with me there in the fragrances of the flowers, that I can hardly remain sane with the thoughts which run through my head, and the imaginary feelings that run throughout my body like a heard of goats stampeding up a mountain. And like the other friends here who have spoken, I feel a desperate cloud of unhappiness come in over me; a feeling that somehow I have been unfaithful to my beloved wife, and made myself unclean before my children, and our religion. And that weighing down feeling of guilt can last for days. I have now reached a stage where I am almost afraid to enter our garden.”

And Eve having carefully listened to their words spoke, saying, “Friends, what you are feeling is not something unusual, abnormal or even wrong in itself. Those thoughts you have are as normal for us sensual human beings as any thoughts which traverse our minds. However, the problem is that you have let them take you over. You need to have a caretaker for your senses, in particular for your mind.

Now, the holy prophets of old; be they male or female are of no good to you whatsoever in this particular case. They cannot caretake for you. You need a caretaker to come forth from your deeper self; to come forth from your heart to constantly stand guard, so that every time such thoughts begin to appear in the far off horizon of your mind, the caretaker will alert you that you now need to stop whatever you are doing, and to immediately remove yourself from out of that spot, and to do something else or to go see your dear children, your beloved wife or even your always-welcoming and understanding neighbours. For such thoughts can be frightened away very easily by your caretaker. Such thoughts are not persistent for they have no ability to take on your caretaker, and give up after awhile.

Ask the Almighty to strengthen your caretaker. And the Almighty who sees all, and knows all; even the hidden thoughts and feelings, will strengthen your caretaker; will strengthen you. Believe me, dear friends; I speak to you with confidence, for I know such to be a truth of my day-nightly experiences. And if I may be with saying to you all; be more passionate and more often so with your wife. Find your pleasure and contentment in her loving embrace. For the Almighty gave her to you to be your beloved for this precious nuptial relationship, and gave you both your children to be an expression of the unity of your love for each

other."

And Eve, and the men gathered there well spoke of many other things too. And when they had concluded, she left from out of their happy presence, and went away by herself into a lonely place to pray.

Shimmering stream

Eve was sitting and reflecting by a shimmering stream when she heard a voice; a woman's voice. And it sounded like she was giving out or getting very angry to someone.

Eve turned, and she noticed a woman coming along a pathway among the trees. And as she was with coming along, she was cursing, roaring and shouting to herself. Every few steps or so she would stop and kick the nearest tree or beat on it with her clinched fists or even try to shred the bark off it with her fingernails. And all the while she would be shouting, screaming, and cursing to someone or to some group who weren't even there.

With getting nearer, she noticed Eve, and suddenly she stopped in her tracks; stopping her shouting tantrum. Her long hair was tossed, and her clothes were torn here and there as if by someone or even by herself. She appeared to be no more than nineteen. Her eyes were filled with anger; with rage, and she appeared to be all but crazy. With standing there, and with eyeing Eve, she was with the intention of dashing on out passed her, that she may be able to continue on uninterrupted with more of the same; shouting, cursing, kicking trees, and shredding them of their bark, when Eve in her characteristic calming voice spoke to her, saying,

“Come; come sit with me here awhile.”

And for some unknown reason, the young woman found herself accepting Eve's offer. And so she did come and sit next to her by the shimmering stream. After awhile, and in her beautiful none confrontational way, Eve enquired of her the reason for her great discomfort.

And the woman answered her, saying, “Oh; oh, all the people of my town are stupid; including my own family, especially my father. He's a moron, and my mother even more of one for putting up with him. Their minds are so, so, so narrow; so fearful, cautious, and calculating. There is not one in that place who can't think bigger than their own little shadows; bigger than the town. I want to fly my thoughts high; yes, very very high, but they want to fasten me to the ground ever before I even begin to express such thoughts. They demand that I behave like all of the other women in our town, and in our family going back for generations and generations. I don't need that; I don't want to be hiding myself away from myself; away from my own beauty never mind hiding it away from others.

They are all the same; yes, they are all the same in my town be they Jews, Christians or Muslims. They only think in square circles, and in circular squares from sun down and all the way round to sun down again. Same, same, and no difference. It is driving me crazy.

And only just this morning, my parents; yes, my parents if you will, told me that they had chosen a man for me to marry; someone from some spit of a village far and away beyond the hills who is almost four times my age! Can you believe it! No! No! No! I don't want that life. I don't want to be married to someone whom I haven't fallen in love with all of my own accord. No! No! No! I don't need to be such a man's play space and the willing producer of children for he and his parents, if they are even still living.

I have dreams, so many dreams; so many big beautiful dreams, and so many places I want to visit and see before falling in love with a wondrous man of maybe a year or two older than me. And, more than anything; yes, more than anything, I want to be able to freely write the imaginings that are within me, but no peace of my mind will they give me; no encouragement, and no space will they allow me to blossom the selves of myself who I believe myself to be.”

And she cried, and she cried, and she cried so much that her tears ran down her shins and joined up with those of the shimmering stream waters. And Eve beside, without uttering a single word, left her to cry it all out as much as she needed to, before she placed her right hand upon her head, and to her said,

“Foremost, be now with serenity of heart, and with drying your tears be with coming with me to a new place where the Almighty will be a light for your path. Hold nothing in you heart against your father and your mother, and your townspeople. They are to be pitied. And be not disillusioned of the goodness stored in the threefold religion just because you found it to have fallen into squared circles, and circled squares. Come to know that the goodness found deep within it is truly good.

From this moment, be of a mind that's looking forward. Neither spiritually, emotionally, philosophically nor physically be with returning to the place from whence you have come. From now on, you are to be who you believe yourself to be. And the Almighty who sees all, and knows all, will be with blessing you abundantly; blessing your quill.”

And the beautiful young woman did wash her face in the stream. It felt really good, and she did smilingly bring her hair into pleasantness. There was a serenity and loveliness in her eyes that was harmonious with her age. She and Eve did leave from that region.

Suddenly of a predusk Eve returned
into the Great Desert.



